DUDLEY
CHRONICLE

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Crash shock

Resident has lucky escape as car smashes into flat

See Page 3

70th hat-trick

Triplets celebrate their milestone birthday

Memory Lane – Page 18

It's panto time

Gok joins star-studded casts in big winter shows

What's On – Page 24

NEW BID TO SAVE CHILDREN CENTRE

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save a children's centre from closure have formed an action group to persuade the council to rethink cost-cutting proposals.

by Adam Thompson

Dozens of parents and children from Queen Victoria Children's Centre in Sedgley attended a public meeting on Monday.

Dudley Council wants to reduce the number of centres from 20 to 13 to save £2.3 million.

The meeting, organised by chairman of Dudley & Halesowen UKIP Bill Etheridge was held at Sedgley Working Men's Club and is one of a number of protest events which have taken place since the proposals were revealed.

Petition

At the meeting, campaigners signed a petition and formed an action group as they look to lobby the council to reconsider proposals to cut children's services used by thousands of Dudley families.

Parent Jodie Wynne, whose three-year-old son Alfie goes to the children's centre, was one of those to address the meeting. She said: "Without this centre I would not be able to work.

"Alfie finishes his morning nursery at 11.40am and I start work at 9am. Who's going to employ someone who can work for those hours? I wouldn't be able to live off the wages if they did.

"The staff at the centre are so good and it is so important it remains open the way it is."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who also attended, said: "I am opposed to the closure of these children centres.

"Councillors don't want to see these children centres close down.

"They want to work with the council to see if they see if there is a way for them to stay open.

"These cuts involve a vital service in this community but in the UK children centres are closing at a rate of three a week, their numbers are in crisis.

"This isn't just about saving the Queen Victoria Children's Centre in Sedgley – it's about looking at the whole network and saving services for children across Dudley."

Mr Etheridge added: "I urge the people to submit their say in this consultation and put pressure on Dudley Council with 'people power'."

More than 15,000 children have access to the centres in Dudley, Brierley Hill, Stourbridge and Halesowen. They provide support including access to child-minding and nursery services. In total, 285 people work at the centres.

■ Buggy brigade take action – see page 2

Free bus for Merry Hill festive shoppers

A FREE shuttle bus service will be ferrying shoppers to the Merry Hill Centre for the second year running in the build-up to Christmas.

It will operate from the nearby Waterfront business park every weekend from this Saturday and also on weekdays, excluding Wednesdays, from December 14. It comes as the centre announced extended Christmas opening hours.

The shuttle bus, which aims to reduce congestion around the shopping centre, proved a success when it was launched for the first time last year.

Gridlocked

Roads around Merry Hill can become gridlocked due to the large number of people trying to get there and find a parking space.

Merry Hill bosses say the bus service will help to make it easier for people to do their Christmas shopping.

The bus runs from 9am until 8.30pm on Saturdays, 10.30am to 5.30pm on Sundays, and until midnight on selected days to coincide with the centre's later opening hours. Shoppers should follow the Park 'n' Ride signs when they drive in.

Between December 2 and 18, the centre will be open for an extra hour, until 10pm on weekdays and 8pm on Saturdays.

Affordable homes plan

ALMOST 100 affordable houses will be built in the borough as part of plans for reducing the number of people becoming homeless.

Dudley Council is working with housebuilders to encourage them to develop a range of smaller properties.

Bosses have drawn up proposals for tackling homelessness in the borough.

During 2012/13 there were 2,270 requests for help made to the council from people worried they were at risk of becoming homeless. But 170 households were accepted as homeless, 12 more than the year before.

Lights action as towns sparkle

MORE than 100 people were in Dudley town centre on Saturday for the switching on of the Christmas lights.

Brierley Hill's festive lights will be switched on at 4.45pm this Saturday by Dudley Mayor Councillor Alan Finch and Father Christmas in the Moor Shopping Centre.

Santa's helpers are hard at work

Kiaya Robinson, of the Brier School, has been busy filling shoe boxes with gifts

SCHOOLCHILDREN have turned into an army of Santa's little helpers by helping ensure youngsters in Eastern Europe receive a present this Christmas.

More than 110 boxes have been wrapped and packed full of presents by pupils at Brier School in Bromley Lane, Kingswinford.

They will be collected this month and taken to less fortunate children in countries such as Belarus and Romania.

It is the 17th time the school has contributed to the nationwide appeal.

Collecting

Nursery nurse Karen Foynes said: "The children absolutely love it – it is part of their personal, social and health education and gives them an understanding of children not as well off as they are."

She added: "They all enjoy collecting the presents, knowing they are helping children elsewhere."

The school project is also managed by fellow nursery nurse Judith Prime.

The boxes are brimming with items including toys and pencils.

The older children at the school fill their own boxes, while the younger pupils work together with their teachers.

The initiative is the world's largest children's Christmas project and is run by the charity Samaritan's Purse.

It has been run since 1990 and delivers the shoeboxes to thousands of children across the world.

Bombs are found by police at man's flat

CRUDE homemade bombs were discovered at a Dudley flat – one of which was packed inside a rucksack, a court was told.

A vodka bottle reportedly containing screws, ball bearings and gunpowder was found in the bag lying at the foot of a bed in the flat.

A second device involving an unspecified low quantity explosive composition was discovered in a jar at the same premises.

Liam Hedley – who has no known terrorist links – was stopped in the street where he was living around 1.35pm on August 29. The 28-year-old was detained near his home in Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, in connection with an unrelated matter that did not lead to criminal proceedings.

Concerns were raised while he was being questioned at a police station and this led to the search of his home. Details emerged after Hedley on Monday pleaded guilty to two charges of having an illegal explosive substance. The admissions were entered on the basis that he made the two devices found at his flat but had no idea what he was going to do with them. This was accepted by the prosecution.

Hedley was remanded in custody for reports until December 9 when he is due to be sentenced.

Council faces huge care bill

A GROWING number of children being taken into care will leave a £3 million shortfall in a cash-strapped Dudley Council's coffers, bosses are predicting.

The authority is expecting to overspend its children's services budget for the current financial year.

Latest figures show there were 628 children in care during the 2010/11 financial year. There are currently 762, around 25 higher than the number expected.

Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for children's services, said: "We will always put the safety of our children first."

NEWS

CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	7
Club News	8
The Way I See It	10
Memory Lane	18
What's On	21
TV Listings	22 – 24
Property	26 – 33
Motoring	34 – 38
Classified	39 – 42
Sport	43 – 44

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MPs condemn closures that hit families

BOROUGH MPs have hit out at Dudley Council plans to close seven children's centres.

Dudley South MP Chris Kelly said the proposals were 'short-sighted'. He believed that Dudley Council should be able to manage its budgets with needing to axe front-line services.

The council wants to reduce the number of centres in the borough from 20 to 13. The move would save the authority £2.3million as it battles a funding shortfall.

Mr Kelly said: "There are more than 3,000 centres in England – just 45 have actually closed since 2010. Yet Labour has decided to close almost 15 per cent of that national total here in Dudley. "This is short-sighted as figures show the number of parents using children's centres has increased to more than a million under this Government."

Dudley North's Ian Austin has also spoken out against the closure of the centres, calling for them to be saved from the axe.

He was visiting staff this week at three centres in his constituency, which include one on Dudley's Priory estate along with sites in Sedgley and Gornal.

"The closure of any of these Sure Start centres would be a huge blow to local families," said Mr Austin.

Halesowen MP James Morris has also started a petition against the closure of the Tenterfields centre in Halesowen which has attracted dozens of signatures.

Council bosses say they need to trim almost £60m from the budgets over the next three years.

Children's services chief Councillor Tim Crumpton has said the proposals to close the centres were not 'set in stone'.

Burglar is caught on porch in house raid

A BURGLAR broke into two properties in a 'spur-of-the-moment' raid before being spotted by a neighbour who called police, a court heard.

James Wade was handed a two-and-a-half year jail sentence.

A resident in Tennyson Street, Pensnett, saw Wade with two other men loitering in March. The court heard that Wade was seen walking to the back garden of one of the houses. Then they saw him hurl a rock through the window of one of the homes.

Pockets

Police were on the scene within minutes where they found Wade in the porch of a neighbouring property with his pockets full of stolen goods.

Investigating officers found Wade had smashed the patio door at one of the houses but had found it was empty. He had gone to the neighbouring property and smashed his way inside.

Ms Sati Ruck, prosecuting, said mobile phones, aftershave, a CD player, lamp stand and chargers had been taken.

Mr Bernard Porter, defending, said Wade's offending had been driven by his abuse of alcohol and drugs.

He added: "It was a spur of the moment offence."

Wade, aged 23, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to two charges of burglary.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court he was sentenced to 30 months imprisonment on both charges to run concurrently.

Buggy brigade urging council to think again

THE buggy brigade turned out in force to make their point to Dudley Council chiefs as protests gathered pace across the borough against a proposed controversial shake-up of children's centres in a bid to cut costs.

The plans, which would mean reducing the number from 20 to 13, have sparked outrage from parents who rely on the centres.

Mothers say they have been told if their site shuts they could catch a bus to the next nearest centre.

However, they claim the move would cost them at least £20 extra a week putting a squeeze on family budgets, besides, they say buses only allow two pushchairs on at a time.

Afford

Campaigner Heather Chaslin, 36, of Birchfield Road, Wollescote, has two children, Marley, aged one, and six-year-old Rowan, and uses Hob Green Children's Centre in Wollescote.

She says families would face walks of more than 20 minutes uphill with pushchairs in all weathers if they could not afford the bus.

"We can't all get the bus as many just couldn't afford it. It would be at least £4 or £5 a day then there are children coming out of school at different times," she said.

The seven centres which face the axe also include Kingswinford and Wall Health and Quarry Bank.

At the moment there are 20 centres in five clusters, including two in Dudley and one each in Brierley Hill, Stourbridge and Halesowen.

Under the new plans there will be four hubs in Brierley Hill, Kate's Hill, Wrens Nest and the Butterfly centre in Lye, where staff will be based. The nine remaining centres would become 'satellites', operating fewer services for less time with no permanent reception.

Protest is planned at centre

A FRESH wave of protests has been launched against the closure of seven children's centres serving families across Dudley.

The campaign against the council cuts is gathering pace with angry parents collecting signatures for petitions and borough MPs joining the fight.

More than 240 people have signed a petition to save Netherton Park children's centre while parents and staff at Bromley Pensnett have hit the streets to gather support for their campaign.

A peaceful protest is also due to take place in Quarry Bank tomorrow (Friday) with parents keen to show the strength of feeling against the closure threat,

Kyra Hill, a member of the centre's Parents Voice committee, is helping to organise the protest. The 25-year-old mother said the centre had given her a lot of support since she moved from Walsall to Stourbridge. "I couldn't have done without their support," she said.

"It is vitally important to keep it open. We want to hold a peaceful protest to show a dedicated and united community against the plan to close our centre."

Concerned mothers say they will not be able to travel together on buses to other children's centres because they will be prevented by the number of pushchairs

Winter death shock figures

THERE were 31,000 deaths linked to cold weather last winter, including 26,600 among the over-75s.

The number of 'excess winter deaths' in England and Wales rose by 29 per cent compared to the previous year, according to the Office for National Statistics.

In Dudley around 200 people die each year from being too cold.

Dudley Council runs a winter warmth service to help people who are struggling to heat their homes with around 500 households supported last year. But former older person's champion for the borough Councillor Pat Martin said the figures showed more help was desperately needed.

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Warden's base and housing planned

IT WAS once the site of a 19th century manor house that had been hit by vandals before it was controversially demolished despite a long-running campaign.

Now the former site of Saltwells House in Saltwells Nature Reserve will be used once again under plans for a £300,000 warden's base as well as new homes.

Since the manor house was knocked down three years ago, there have been calls for the site to be available for the community.

Visitors

Proposals by Selbourne Homes include a single storey warden's HQ which will be used by staff working in the reserve as well as visitors and schoolchildren.

It would be partly funded by Dudley Council, which says it will give Saltwells a facility which can be used by the whole community.

There would also be five four-bedroom houses built on the site while the access road would be improved.

Gavin Warr, managing director of Hagley-based Selbourne Homes, said: "We are building these five houses and that will enable, at the same time, the woodland warden's facility to be built.

"As well as having accommodation for the woodland wardens and management of the site, there will be classrooms for schoolchildren to learn about the woodlands."

The five detached houses would be built in a 'woodland style' designed to fit in with their surroundings.

Dudley Council has agreed to earmark £120,000 from the reserves budget of the council's urban environment directorate for the new base.

Cinema part of £80m deal

A MULTIPLEX cinema next to the Merry Hill shopping centre has been bought by a property group as part of a £80.6 million deal.

The Odeon Cinema in Brierley Hill is part of a portfolio of 10 out-of-town Odeons acquired by LondonMetric Property from Odeon Property Group. The buildings will continue to be let to Odeon Cinema for nearly 25 years.

Andrew Jones, chief executive of LondonMetric, said: "The transaction offers us long and strong income. "

'We can't believe our Laura has gone'

Student Laura Pincher – died at 18

SHE had her whole life ahead of her butut it was cruelly cut short after she suffered a blood clot at the age of just 18.

Relatives of Laura Pincher have spoken of their continuing disbelief less than a month after they lost her.

The health and social care student at Stourbridge College died at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley from a blood clot in her lungs.

Hundreds gathered to remember Laura at her funeral at St Benedict Biscop Church in Wombourne.

The former Ounsdale High School pupil, who lived in Hadcroft Grange, Stourbridge, leaves her parents Andrew and Jane Pincher as well as sister Emma, brother Matthew, plus two step-brothers Ryan and Reece and a step-sister Charlotte. She also leaves her fiancé, Richard Clews, who had been her partner for two years.

Mr Pincher, aged 47, said: "She was a lovely child – a really, really happy girl who always wanted to have fun.

"Losing her has been tough on the whole family. I don't think we can really believe she has gone."

Funeral

He added: "I'd like to thank the community for all its support following her death."

At her funeral, the family asked mourners to donate money to The Beacon Centre For The Blind in Sedgley after the charity had helped Laura because she suffered from Stargardt disease.

The condition meant she was gradually losing her eyesight.

Mr Pincher said the family planned to spread his daughter's ashes and plant a rose tree in Stourbridge in memory of her.

Earlier this month, an inquest into her death was opened at Smethwick Coroners Court.

The hearing was told that Laura had died from a bilateral pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis due to morbid obesity.

Mr Angus Smillie, assistant coroner for the Black Country, adjourned the matter for an inquest after concerns were raised by her family about previous hospital admissions.

The hearing will take place on February 4.

Supermarket scheme to transform town centre

RESTAURANTS, shops and houses will be built alongside a supermarket under a £50 million masterplan being showcased for a town centre.

Developer Commercial Estates Group, which already has planning permission for the foodstore, has announced proposals to expand its regeneration scheme for the site of Falcon House in the Minories, Dudley.

Revised designs are now being drawn up for a new mixed-use quarter connected to the heart of the town centre.

It would include designated areas for restaurants and cafes, business units and shops stretching between King Street and Flood Street and between Flood Street and Oakeywell Street.

Jobs

The scheme would also aim to improve links between King Street and the rest of the town centre such as High Street and market place.

The supermarket would be the first phase of the scheme in 2015 and is expected to create up to 500 jobs.

Richard Burke, from Commercial Estates Group, said: "We can bring forward a new supermarket but the site is capable of delivering so much more for Dudley.

"With the regeneration of King Street, which is a council and community priority, this offers a unique opportunity to deliver homes, commercial and leisure uses, community facilities and retail at the same time as reconnecting King Street to the town centre."

by Heather Large

He added: "At Commercial Estates Group we have a track record in delivering schemes of this nature and long-term investments in local areas.

"The site benefits from a small number of landowners, making the masterplanning process much simpler than would otherwise be the case.

"We are fully committed to delivering this major regeneration project."

Residents and businesses are being asked for their views and a workshop for them will be held tonight, Thursday, November 2, from 6pm to 8pm for people to contribute ideas to the masterplan for the site.

The project is one of three regeneration schemes involving proposals for a supermarket on the table for the town centre.

They also include the Porters Field project which would see the eyesore office block Cavendish House demolished to make way for a modern store and a stylish continental-style public piazza.

The plan includes restaurants, cafes and a gym and would bring 500 jobs to the town.

Resident is lucky to be alive

The car is wedged inside the flat, *pictures from West Midlands Fire Service*

Mamadou Diallo surveys the damage

A CAR careered off the road and ploughed through the wall of a flat, narrowly missing a resident who was inside his lounge watching TV.

Factory worker Mamadou Diallo, aged 34, described hearing a loud bang and seeing a 'silver shape' pass in front of his eyes moments before he was covered in dust and rubble.

The silver Volkswagen Golf came crashing into his ground floor flat, on Maughan Street in Dudley.

Mr Diallo, who escaped without injury, fears he could have died had he not made a change to his typical evening routine. He had been relaxing watching music videos when the car smashed through his living room.

"I usually lie down on the settee, but my back has been hurting so I decided to lie on the floor. The car smashed through the wall straight into the settee, so if I had been on there I would probably be a dead man now."

Mr Diallo crawled out of a gap in the wall next to the car.

"When I looked back in the room it was in bits. Everything was smashed to pieces, the TV, the settee, everything was crushed up against the back wall.

"The driver had fallen out of the car and was lying in the rubble. I went back in and tried to help him. I think he was disabled because his false leg was lying on the floor in the all the mess.

Six families living in the three-storey block were evacuated while structural engineers assessed the building.

Mr Diallo, who works at Newbrel in Halesowen, said he has been in the UK for around 10 years since moving from Guinea. He is due to become a naturalised British citizen next week. "I was looking forward to it a lot but now I don't have a place to live," he added.

The driver of the car was arrested on suspicion of drink-driving and has been bailed by police.

NEWS in brief

Children's toys appeal launched

AN APPEAL has been launched for toys to help disadvantaged children this Christmas. More than 6,000 children in Dudley borough were helped by the scheme last year.

The 2012 toy appeal was the most successful in its 20-year history with 6,082 children in the borough receiving a gift or taken to a pantomime.

Dudley Council for Voluntary Service is seeking unused toys games, books, DVDs and selection boxes for children aged up to 16.

Co-ordinator Eileen Fielding said: "There are over 15,000 children in Dudley who live in households with income below the poverty line. For some children the gift they receive from our toy appeal is the only toy they will receive."

Call Eileen on 01384 573381 or email eileen-fielding@dudleycvs.org.uk

Lantern parade at lights show

A LANTERN parade will kick off Oldbury's Christmas lights switch-on today (Thursday).

The free event will take place from 4pm to 7pm. Children from Tividale Children's Centre and Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy have made lanterns for the parade, which will also feature dhol drummers.

The parade will start at 5.30pm in Birmingham Road before it makes its way to Oldbury Civic Square. Special guest Santa will switch on the lights at 6pm.

Choir at festive family concert

STOURBRIDGE Choir and Orchestra are presenting their Christmas concert for family audiences on December 14 at 3pm in the Glasshouse theatre at the Ruskin Centre in Amblecote.

Musical director Martin Sleaford will conduct..

Tickets are £9 (£8 concessions, £2.50 children £2.50) available from Music Matters, Market Street, Stourbridge, 01384 373111, or on the door.

Presents saved in house blaze

A FAMILY may be out their home for months after a blaze tore through their Wall Heath semi when a dishwasher caught fire. But fire crews were able rescue Christmas presents during the fire Summerfield Avenue last Wednesday morning.

Gornal Wood Crematorium
Remembrance service
Sunday 8 December 2013
11am and 3pm
This service is particularly appropriate where the funeral of a relative or friend has taken place at the crematorium, however, everyone is welcome.
Due to high demand, admission is by ticket only. Tickets are available by calling 01384 813982 or visiting the crematorium office on Tuesday 19 November after 10.30am.
At the end of each service staff will be available to show visitors around and answer any questions about the crematorium.
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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

IN THE space of a few hours this week I received two emails, apparently from BT, about changes to the email system. Both turned out to be bogus, part of a "phishing" scam to pick up personal details. The internet seems to get more dangerous every day, like a dark, growing forest with robbers behind every tree. I sometimes wonder how long the internet will last. Unless security is massively improved, the day may come when, like airships and Sinclair C5s, it will be seen as too dangerous for most folk to contemplate.

❒❒❒❒❒❒❒❒

BIG row in Walsall over the council's decision to blow £50,000 on a new Jaguar as the mayoral limousine. A senior councillor says: "We feel it's important to retain the significance of the mayor's role. The mayor goes back to the 1200s. The mayor is the Queen's representative in the borough." Which sounds terribly impressive until you recall that the role of the Pope goes back 2,000 years and he is God's representative on earth. While the Mayor of Walsall rolls up in a £50,000 Jag, Pope Francis uses a Ford Focus.

❒❒❒❒❒❒❒❒

IT IS reported that theft from shops in the UK now costs us £3,400 million a year, or about £124 per household. It is a colossal sum but what did the politicians expect when they effectively decriminalised shoplifting? Gone are the days when shoplifters were hauled before the courts to have their dishonesty dissected in public and their convictions printed in the local newspaper. Oh, the shame. These days a first-time shoplifter(and they always claim it's their first time) caught nicking items worth less than £100 is issued with a PND, a Penalty Notice of Disorder which is little more than a fixed-penalty fine. Pay £80 and you'll hear no more about it. This is probably the biggest bargain in the supermarket. If you go shoplifting a dozen times before you get caught and then get stung for £80, you're well into profit. Is it any wonder that thousands of people no longer regard shoplifting as a crime and look slightly puzzled if you suggest, heaven forbid, they should be ashamed of themselves?

❒❒❒❒❒❒❒❒

FOR a snapshot of modern attitudes to theft from stores, have a look at that great national barometer, the Sky News website where one contributor thunders: "The only answer to this problem is to FIGHT for a DECENT WAGE." Actually, there is another answer. Try leading a decent, honest life and keeping your sticky fingers off other people's property.

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MEANWHILE, it emerged this week that we are heading for the most debt-ridden Christmas of all time. Total UK personal debt stands at £1.43 trillion or if you prefer, £1,430,000,000,000. Average debt per British household is now £54,000, double the level of a decade ago. And just when you're thinking of doing something really desperate (like paying off some of your debts), along comes a couple of new credit cards, announced this week, which don't charge any interest for the first 15 months. Just think of the debt you can rack up before things turn nasty. Just what we need – the lead lifejacket.

IT is 50 years since President Kennedy was killed in Dallas. Over the following five decades, like so many of my generation, I have read endless conspiracy theories and watched a succession of reconstructions, documentaries and movies. Only one came close to persuading me there was more to this killing than a single assassin in the Dallas book depository. This was Bonar Menninger's book Mortal Error: The Shot That Killed JFK, which I reviewed when it was published 21 years ago. Menninger believes Lee Harvey Oswald fired only two of the three shots heard that day in Dallas. The third and fatal shot, he suggests, was fired accidentally by secret service agent George Hickey in the car behind Kennedy's who stood up in alarm when he heard Oswald's shots. It is an elegant theory. It explains not only why the three shots happened so quickly but why several witnesses said they smelt gunpowder in the air at street level. Above all, it is a theory which relies not on a conspiracy, which would surely have unravelled by now, but on a good, old-fashioned cock-up.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Ex-soldier's punch KO'd man for five days

A FORMER soldier who punched a drunk man in a pub knocking him unconscious for five days has been spared an immediate jail sentence.

Daniel Browning 'lost his temper' at the Albion Inn in Kingswinford and punched Luke Esser in the face, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mr Stuart Clarkson, prosecuting, told the court that the first Mr Esser knew about the attack was when he woke up in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on Boxing Day – five days after he was punched.

Mr Clarkson said: "It was about quarter past 11 on December 21, and Mr Esser and his friends were about to leave the Albion Inn. Luke Esser was rather worse for wear. He was clearly in drink."

Mr Esser had staggered towards a door and when he spilt some drink he kicked the door and shouted at it, but did not cause any damage. "He was confronted by Daniel Browning who asked him 'did you kick the door', which he denied," said Mr Clarkson. "He struck out at Mr Esser.

"He punched him once and he fell backward, onto the floor, and as a consequence he was injured."

Fractured

The victim suffered a fractured cheek and a cut to the back of his head.

Browning was originally charged with grievous bodily harm but pleaded guilty on the day of his trial to a charge of wounding.

When interviewed Browning, of Bells Lane, Wordsley, had said that he was acting in self defence.

Miss Samantha Powis, defending, said Browning was a former soldier who had seen active service, and had recently returned from a security contract in Iraq. She told the court that he was not drunk and had put Mr Esser in the recovery position.

"This was an offence where the defendant lost his temper," she said

Judge Martin Walsh noted that Browning, 27, had previous convictions but none of them were recent.

He told Browning: "You have a military background and you have been subject to military discipline in the past. Your victim may well have been making somewhat of a nuisance of himself but you delivered a single blow which caused a fracture to his cheek and injuries to the back of his head when he fell."

He sentenced him to 12 months in prison suspended for two years. He also ordered him to complete 150 hours of unpaid work, a three month curfew, and pay £100 victim surcharge.

Daniel Browning – lost his temper with drunk man

'Miracle' escape from terror of killer typhoon

Tom Gore with children at a shelter before the typhoon struck Tacloban

The scene outside the Kaya Responsible Travel base after the killer storm

AFTER escaping unscathed from a 'terrifying' six hours alone as his flat in the Philippines was lashed by Typhoon Haiyan, Tom Gore could have been forgiven for taking up his bosses' offer fly straight home to England.

But instead the 23-year-old from Stourbridge set about aiding his colleagues in helping scores of people left homeless and hungry by the disaster.

Tom says it was a 'miracle' that he and some 80 colleagues in the city of Tacloban, in the province hardest hit by the typhoon, escaped with their lives. But he added: "A lot of their houses were totally destroyed and they lost everything.

"We have sheltered about 50 people in our offices in Tacloban and having been buying food and medical supplies for them, as well as taking it out to the villages to help other people."

Howling

Tom was awoken at 3am by a howling wind as the typhoon approached and it got worse, with the storm at its height for four hours. "It was pretty terrifying," he said. "The wind was so loud, the rain so heavy and I could hear glass breaking. A tree flew into my wall – at any other angle it would have gone through the window.

"At first I was texting people but the storm suddenly caused a blackout and the phone lines went down."

The former student at Redhill School, Stourbridge, and Halesowen College, who got a first class degree in history at Manchester Metropolitan University, works for Manchester-based Kaya Responsible Travel, which offers people the chance to get work experience overseas and volunteer for projects.

With the threat of cholera mounting in Tacloban, he and his workmates eventually relocated to the island city of Cebu.

There he will be on hand to help with interviews to recruit 100 volunteers to help rebuild devastated areas.

Then he plans to return to the stricken area to carry on the relief effort. If his own experience was frightening, it was even worse for his family back in Heath Street, Stourb idge.

His mother Judy, 55, said: "For a long time we did not know if he was alive or dead. Finally we got a message through saying he was safe and well. I cannot describe the relief of that message."

More than 4,000 people are believed to have been killed in the storm and around 1,200 are missing.

Poets get first look inside the new archive

VISITORS can get their first glimpse inside a new £6 million archives centre during a programme of events ahead of its launch in the New Year.

Dudley Council has organised activities in the run-up to the centre in Tipton Road opening to the public in January.

Budding poets can create history and heritage poetry led by Brenda Read-Brown, Gloucestershire's poet laureate for 2012-13.The poetry workshops will run from 10.30am-12pm on December 4 and January 15.

Coal'ole

Dr Brian Dakin will be taking to the stage on December 5 for an hour of stories and unaccompanied songs based on his latest book From the Coal'ole and Other Stories.

Dudley's Councillor Stuart Turner, cabinet member for libraries said: "We are proud to host a series of activities at our brand new archives and local history centre."

The centre will house IT and public wi-fi services, education and conference rooms, a rare-book library and a research area. The council's archives service will relocate from its building in Mount Pleasant, Coseley, to the new site.

Interest in care home

MORE than a dozen not-for-profit organisations are interested in running a closure-threatened care home in Kingswinford.

Dudley Council bosses want to offload New Bradley Hall care home after revealing they could not longer afford the running costs and the building's upkeep.

The council revealed 13 groups have expressed an interest in taking over since a tendering process started in September.

But campaigners say they want the home in Compton Drive to stay under council control rather than under a third party who could close it in the future.

Adult services boss, Councillor Dave Branwood, said: "The level of initial interest in the home is really encouraging.

"We are confident we will identify an organisation capable of delivering a positive future for the residents and staff at New Bradley Hall."

Drivers net a fair sum for young patients

TAXI drivers stepped out of their cabs to find the net for charity as they played a fundraising football tournament.

Members of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association organised the event and drivers from five firms across the borough took part.

The grand total raised was £1,130.75, which has been donated to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Association chairman Shaz Saleem, aged 27, presented the cheque to Katie West from the hospital last week.

"It is great, our target was £500," he said. "We wanted to do more and give something back to the community.

"We want to make this an annual event now," he added.

Mr Saleem's son Shazad was treated at the children's hospital when he was younger.

Firms taking part were Beacon Taxis of Sedgley, Fastline Taxis of Kingswinford, Halesowen-based Express Taxis, Elite Taxis of Lye, 5 Star from Dudley and Falcon Taxis from Stourbridge. Elite Taxis beat Fastline 1-0 in the final.

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Finch, was guest of honour. He said: "It's great to see businesses in the community coming together to raise money for charity."

Singers hit right note

FUNDRAISERS hit all the right notes as singers raised the roof to lead a night of live music to bring in £1,500 for charity.

Around 150 guests packed into Netherton Sports and Social Club, in Netherton Lane, for the night. Cash raised went towards the MND Association which helps people who have motor neurone disease.

It was organised by Wayne Wise helped by Carl Botley in memory of a friend Andrew Pritchard who died around three years ago aged 47 from the condition.

Singers Richie Deam, Vicky Elise, Debbie Alexander and Dave Stevens performed during the fun-packed night.

Guests dug deep during the event with a raffle and both Baggies and Wolves shirts auctioned off for the cause.

Membrane work nears end to boost wildlife

The Rattlechain Lagoon site in Tividale

WORK is drawing to a close on a major operation to install a special membrane at a contaminated Black Country pool blamed for the deaths of dozens of birds.

The geotextile sheet is being laid on the bottom of Rattlechain Lagoon, in Tividale, to protect the lake from white phosphorus, which the birds are believed to be ingesting. More than 80 birds have died at the site.

Chemical company Rhodia UK Ltd, which owns the site, has carried out a programme of environmental improvements and work is due to be complete by the end of the month.

The lagoon, in John's Lane, has been a waste disposal site for more than 60 years, but has not been actively used since 2006 and will not accept any further waste.

Rhodia, which took ownership of it in 2000, has been working on a solution to cover the waste contained in the sediments at the bottom of the lagoon to help prevent birds ingesting them as they feed.

The geotextile sheet is covered with a layer of sand to further isolate the waste contained in the sediments at the bottom of the lagoon and help protect visiting wildlife. The major part of the work is now complete, with bushes and shrubs now being planted.

The lagoon will now be surveyed to check that the sheet remains in place – first in six months and then annually for the next five years. Bosses of the site now hope that it will not be long before the lagoon attracts birds and other wildlife. John Moorhouse, site redevelopment manager at Rhodia, said: "This has been a significant project and we would like to express our gratitude to our neighbours who have seen a lot more activity on site than they have become used to in previous years.

"We'd also like to thank the RSPCA, Natural England, the Canal and River Trust and the Environment Agency, from whom we have sought support and guidance during the project."

Action proposed to stop queues at busy junction

ACTION is to be taken to prevent tailbacks at a busy Dudley junction during rush hour following years of complaints from residents and motorists.

Long queues form along Parkes Hall Road every weekday morning and evening with traffic stretching back nearly a mile along the route on some occasions.

by Lee Watton

The congestion is apparently caused because the road is not wide enough at its traffic light-controlled junction with Tipton Road, Sedgley Road and Park Road.

When more than one vehicle is waiting to turn right out of Parkes Hall Road or Park Road, the carriageway becomes blocked as cars travelling straight ahead cannot pass those waiting to turn.

A survey has now been carried out along the route and Dudley Council is looking at options to deal with the long-running problem.

One of the suggestions is to change the system of lights to allow vehicles turning right to filter across and a filter light could also be introduced.

Upper Gornal and Woodsetton councillor Keiran Casey has been campaigning for action at the junction along with fellow councillor Adam Aston.

He said: "This has been a concern for some time. There have been occasions when the tailbacks have stretched back along Parkes Hall Road to its junction with Eve Lane.

Rush-hour

"This is a very busy road during the day as is Tipton Road, Sedgley Road and Park Road and at rush-hour it is obviously worse.

"The fact is the junction is not wide enough for all of the cars using it.

"However, to widen the junction would be a major task and at the moment resources are just not available.

He added: "Members of the community have suggested changes to the traffic lights which are now under consideration.

"Various options are now being looked at to deal with this problem and something will be agreed in the near future."

Firms up for national awards

TWO Black Country businesses have won through to the national finals of a manufacturing awards scheme.

Lift and Engineering Services, of Portersfield Road, Cradley Heath, and Caparo Industries, of Popes Lane, Oldbury, won regional prizes in EEF's Midlands Future Manufacturing Awards. They will now take part in the national finals in London in January.

Lift and Engineering Services won the business growth and investing in skills awards while Caparo won the partnership with education award.

Caparo Bridge Aluminium won the environmental efficiency award and Caparo Atlas Fastenings was runner-up in the investing in skills category.

Tiger talk to help Joao settle

Male Sumatran tiger, Joao, aged 20 months, settles in at Dudley Zoo watched by assistant curator Richard Brown

AFTER travelling hundreds of miles by sea and land, the latest arrival at Dudley Zoo is now settling into his new surroundings.

Keepers are spending time with young Sumatran tiger, Joao, as they help him get used to his enclosure and introduce him to female tiger and potential mate Daseep.

He brings with him hopes of a new generation of big cats as Joao is part of a major international conservation programme for the critically endangered species.

Assistant curator Richard Brown said: "Joao is still settling into his new surroundings in the internal dens and we are monitoring his behaviour daily. He seems to be a relaxed tiger and big cat staff are now working hard to build a bond with him by spending as much time as possible sitting and talking to him.

"We hope visitors will bear with him until he's ready to explore the outside, which we expect to be sometime in the coming weeks."

Staff have also started the gradual introduction process between 20-month-old Joao and three year-old Daseep. Mr Brown said: "Although both tigers are kept separately indoors, they can now see each other through the internal enclosures and there has been some vocalisation between the pair. All the initial reactions have so far been promising."

Dudley Zoo holds an impressive breeding record for Sumatran tigers with eight cubs having been born at the Castle Hill site between 2000 and 2005, which increased the world population of this rare sub-species by two per cent. It went on to boost programmes across the world.

Sumatran tigers are 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red data List. There are just 140 left in the wild.

NEWS in brief

Cut price deal to help fitness

PEOPLE are being urged to get fit this Christmas with a special membership offer available at leisure centres in one borough.

The offer by Dudley Council is running until January 10 at the Crystal, Dudley and Halesowen leisure centres. It is also available at the Dell Stadium and is valid for 12 months.

Councillor Stuart Turner, boss for health and wellbeing, said: "This is a fantastic money-saving opportunity. It would make the perfect Christmas gift for anyone who wants to keep fit. Dudley Council wants to encourage our residents to exercise more often and this deal is one of the many ways we're helping."

Police cash boost for a boxing club

BOXERS will benefit from new equipment funded by a donation from the police.

The club based at Cradley Heath Community Centre on Reddal Hill Road has been handed £800 by Old Hill Police. The money will help pay for new equipment and contribute to the costs of a renting a room.

The money has come thanks to the Police Property Act, which allows the sale of seized and unclaimed items in the possession of the police for more than 12 months.

Champion is to switch on lights

KICKBOXING champion Simon Akufo will be turning on the Christmas lights at a church on Saturday.

The event will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, on November 30 from 3pm.

The Halesowen athlete, who is the current European Kickboxing Champion, will switch on the lights at 5pm.

Tempting treats for church funds

CAKES will be tempting visitors at a Christmas fair in aid of church funds on Saturday. The event at St Mark's Church, High Street, Pensnett, is opened at noon by Dudley Deputy Mayor, Councillor Margaret Aston.

Library closures

ALL libraries across Dudley borough will close for one day to allow for staff training next week.

The libraries will be closing on Wednesday, December 4.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW WITH MARK ANDREWS

SOME years ago, my car was vandalised. It had been keyed from front to back, with several deep scratches across four different panels. Pretty conclusive evidence of a crime, wouldn't you say? Not according to the police officer who attended.

"So what makes you think it was deliberate?" he asked.

Of course. Somebody walking past, maybe on their way to a charity auction or something, just happens to have a sharp implement in their hand, and accidentally gouges a 16ft stretch of paintwork. Happens all the time.

Last week former West Midlands Police chief inspector Rodger Patrick told a committee of MPs about how police officers used such quaintly-named techniques as 'cuffing', 'nodding', 'skewing' and 'stitching' to make crime figures look better.

'Cuffing' could potentially involve recording thefts as 'lost property', burglaries as 'theft from property', and attempted burglaries as 'criminal damage', he explained. As opposed to the good old days, when it was a way of dealing with young miscreants. And that made the crime figures look better too.

□□□□□□

IT IS great to hear that Black Country discount chain Poundland is to be floated on the Stock Exchange, but one small question. What will the share price will be?

□□□□□□

CONGRATULATIONS on Kingston-upon-Hull being voted UK City of Culture in 2017.

Now I must confess ignorance, in the sense that it is a place I have never visited. But I'm in no doubt that it is a very pleasant place, and I know enough people who originate from that neck of the woods to know it would be very unwise to ever suggest anything else. But it does beg the question of how our ruling classes define culture, and what sort of attributes they seek.

The UK City of Culture panel was headed by television producer Phil Redmond, best known for making Grange Hill and Brookside, and the other main contenders for the title included Leicester, Dundee and Swansea.

Again, very nice cities, no doubt, but it doesn't take a mastermind to imagine the type of culture they were looking for. I can imagine buzz words like 'cutting edge', 'vibrancy' and 'diversity' being used pretty liberally during the judging process.

So Worcester, which gave the world Edward Elgar, Stratford-upon Avon, the home of William Shakespeare, and Portsmouth, the birthplace of Charles Dickens, are all overlooked, and instead the accolade goes to the city which brought us John Prescott. Brilliant.

Before Karl was injured in Iraq

Karl during one of his charity events

Big challenge – heading to Everest

Karl is in Bryan Adams' new book

Scars only skin deep as Karl bares his soul

LISA WRIGHT reports on Black Country hero Karl Hinett who has teamed up with Bryan Adams with some remarkable results

The word tattooed across his stomach speaks volumes about war hero Karl Hinett.

Although Karl was so badly injured in Iraq that he had to learn to walk again, the word 'unscarred' is emblazoned on his torso as a reminder of his determination to overcome his wounds.

It is a simple, powerful word summing up the spirit of a man who has gone on to run countless marathons in aid of charity, now candidly displayed framed by his shocking scars in a new book by rock star Bryan Adams.

Karl, formerly of Tipton and who now lives in Dudley, was invited by Adams to strip off to be part of an collection of striking portraits of injured soldiers called Bryan Adams Exposed in Dusseldorf.

And now the singer has launched a book featuring more images called Wounded: The Legacy of War.

As a private with the Staffordshire Regiment, Karl, 26, suffered severe burns to his hands, legs, arms and face in the bombing in 2005 in Iraq.

The word unscarred is tattooed across war hero Karl Hinett's stomach

Challenges

His injuries were so bad he had to painstakingly learn to walk again.

But he battled back to compete in dozens of gruelling challenges to raise money for the hospital that treated him, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. Around two years ago he was approached by the Canadian to pose in the pictures.

He said: "I have to admit it was quite an unusual email I got from him, but as I read the details I realised I wanted to take part. He wanted to capture images of soldiers after war, and it was a really interesting and exciting project to be part of." He spent most of the morning with the star at his studio, and even had breakfast with him.

He said: "He is a really genuine and down to earth guy, and really very accommodating, making me feel welcome. It was very relaxed, and he was very clear about what he wanted."

Karl posed topless for the star putting his burnt and badly scarred skin on full display, as well as his distinctive tattoos. He added: "He is known mostly for his music, but he is a really very good photographer and was very professional."

Karl was photographed individually but was one of 25 injured soldiers to take part in the project.

He said: "Looking back it was quite a bizarre experience being photographed by Bryan Adams, but I am really pleased I did it.

"It was a bit odd posing, but he kept it quite relaxed and put me at ease."

Karl has raised tens of thousands of pounds for charity during his mammoth fundraising efforts, running 100 marathons in two years in aid of the hospital charity.

On New Year's Day 2011 he started a marathon challenge to raise cash for Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where he was nursed back to health.

He finished the last gruelling 26.2 mile run in Liverpool on New Year's Eve last year.

Meanwhile, he has also announced he will be returning to Iraq in an epic challenge to mark the 10th anniversary of when he was horrifically injured in the country.

The soldier will be taking on a 5,000km running challenge called 'Back 2 Iraq 2015' in two years time, which will see him run across Europe, Turkey and back to the Middle East.

Collection

Money will be split between the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity and Walking With The Wounded. Karl said the idea was formed with fellow participant Jules Roberts, 29.

They plan to run around a marathon a day, starting in England, making their way through France, Germany, Prague, Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey and then on to Iraq.

The book was launched earlier this month and is a collection of photographs and first person accounts from servicemen and women who have cheated death whilst serving their country in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The photography for the book was taken by Bryan Adams and the words were edited by ITN journalist Caroline Froggatt who first approached Bryan with the idea to do something to help wounded soldiers in 2008. The book has taken five years to make and includes more than 100 photographs of 40 wounded servicemen.

It is published by German publishers Steidl and cost £50.

Proceeds from the book will go to the services charities BLESMA, Blind Veterans UK, Combat Stress, SSAFA and War Child.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A COUNCIL announced it would be taking a softer stance on prosecutions for breaches of Sunday trading laws. Wolverhampton Council had previously had a policy of rigidly enforcing laws banning businesses from opening on the Sabbath.

THE Express & Star carried an aerial shot of the new M54 motorway link to Telford, which was due to be opened by Transport Secretary Nicholas Ridley. In an article Mr Ridley wrote: "Although the M54 has in the past understandably attracted some controversy and objections from environmentalists, I believe the advantages and far outweigh the disadvantages."

WOOLWORTH'S chairman John Beckett defended his company's decision to prosecute a 77-year-old shoplifter, despite being castigated by a judge. Walsall-born Mr Beckett, a former pupil of Wolverhampton Grammar School, said a shoplifter's age should not be taken into account unless they were ill or confused.

1993...

IT WAS announced that the last remaining coal pit in Staffordshire was to close before Christmas, throwing 600 miners out of work. Workers at Littleton Colliery, near Cannock, were told by bosses at British Coal that the pit would close on December 10.

CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer Ken Clarke cut the rate of borrowing by 0.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent, sparking measures that he was trying to stimulate consumer spending ahead of a tax rise.

WOLVES fans were furious when they arrived at Luton to discover that the match had been called off. The First Division tie at Kenilworth Road had been cancelled just three hours before kick-off.

2003...

ENGLAND were celebrating their most famous sporting victory since 1966 after lifting the Rugby World Cup.Prolific scorer Jonny Wilkinson grabbed the glory with a dramatic last-minute extra time winner.

A CHURCH sparked a fury by removing all silk flower arrangements from graves in its yard. Furious relatives blasted Rev David Vastergaard's decision to enforce the strict rules at Holy Trinity Church in Heath Town, Wolverhampton, without warning. Around100 people signed a petition opposing the controversial move. Mr Vastergaard apologised for any anguish caused by the ban, but said artificial flowers quickly looked shabby and dirty, and could also damage mowing and strimming equipment.

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FEB 10-14	PAIGNTON	£215 HB
FEB 17-21	ISLE OF WIGHT	£245 HB
FEB 17-21	TENBY ALL-INCLUSIVE	£239
FEB 24-28	EASTBOURNE (WITH FREE HOUSE BAR 6PM-9PM)	£199
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MAR 24-28	WARNERS HAYLING ISLAND - 60's WEEK	£325 HB
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LETTERS

'We want our town back'

I WOULD like to thank the people who attended the first public meeting by the Dudley Regeneration Group on Sunday (November 17) at the Station Hotel.

What came out of the meeting was that we believe the town's best days are not behind it and we believe people power can change our leaders' current negative view of the town and actually let it compete in the real world again.

While places like Stourbridge and Halesowen have prospered with continuing regeneration, Dudley has been left to die a slow degeneration as bit by bit services shops have been taken away.

You mention Dudley to any councillor and all he will say is that Merry Hill killed the town. We believe that is a copout and just an excuse not to spend money on the town. Our elected leaders need to take responsibility. If you drive in there is not even a sign saying welcome to Dudley town centre anymore.

We believe Dudley is a unique town and needs to play to its strengths and tradition of being the heart of the Black Country. People still use the town centre in big numbers and yet the council have ignored it in favour of Brierley Hill, which has no historical significance – only a BIG shopping centre.

We can write all day about what the council has not done but it's what they need to do to help new business back into the town and give the town a long term future that matters – and not as a backwater of Brierley Hill. We say to Dudley MBC, we want our town back!

The Dudley Regeneration Group is a non-political organisation, a campaign-lobby group.

If you want to join our fight for a better deal for our town email Dudley towngroup@yahoo.co.uk.

STEVE BRISCOE
Dudley Regeneration Group

Charges for travel

PROPOSALS to save money by removing free travel for OAPs on trams and trains are overzealous.

The need to save money is not disputed but Centro could make lots of savings without resorting to penalising the poorest in society.

For example, they could raise adult fares to say £2.20. That would cover their shortfall.

Or they could charge pensioners say 20p a journey on all buses, trains and trams. No hardship whatsoever for the pensioner and their ability to use trains and trams safeguarded.

Or else perhaps charge £20 a year to add Metro and train services to the OAP pass.

There is no need whatsoever for a sweeping withdraw of services and let us not forget that National Express, who run 80 percent of our public transport services, are making huge profits (£117m last year). Perhaps they could assist?

E SHAW
Dudley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Car wash concerns

RECENTLY I've noticed an increase in car wash sites. They seem to be popping up all over the place. Many of them seem very quickly set up, almost temporary in nature whilst others look professional and in it for the long haul.

It made me wonder, does anyone check the site water connections? Are they paying business rates/metered rates? Are they regulated? How do they discharge safely all their waste water taking into account current environmental legislation and guidelines?

We have environmental guidelines and regulations are in place to cover vehicle washing and operational needs relating to water use and safe release of waste water containing chemicals used in the process. Is anyone checking this kind of site to see if these guidelines/laws are being adhered to?

Also, water companies charge residential customers for the privilege of a water supply, to use and discharge to sewers. etc. These businesses use vast quantities of water daily, so are they checking who is using their water in high volumes daily and ensuring they are paying?

Why do they propose such a good business option (is it because none of the above apply!). Are they a long term bad option for the environment; water rates and even maybe the taxman?

L HANDLEY
Brierley Hill

Council wage bill

WHAT a week of headlines regarding Dudley. First we hear that our council are considering buying private properties to full the council housing gap, then we hear that due to a shortage of money they are planning on closing childrens centres and care homes.

At no point have I read any comment about cutting councillors' allowances or the huge wage bill of council executives and managers.

The truth is that this Labour-Tory shambles in our council house have no idea of what they are doing and the time has come for the people of Dudley to hold them to account.

UKIP is fighting the care home and childrens centre closures and demanding a full review into the working practices and costs of the council.

Please help us to fight for services for the young and vulnerable as well as forcing some sanity on our council

BILL ETHERIDGE
UKIP Dudley & Halesowen Chairman

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CLUB NEWS

Tina has calming influence

WOMBOURNE WI

OUR SPEAKER and demonstrator for the evening was Tina Lloyd.

She told us that she had trained in ballet and contemporary dance in London and also enjoyed Tai Chi.

On returning to the Midlands, she decided to take a course to enable her to teach the latter to the over 50s. Eventually she included Tai Chi for the disabled and now some of her work is in care homes.

Tina informed us that Tai Chi improves balance and co-ordination, helps to reduce blood pressure and has many other benefits. After a demonstration, we were invited to join her, some standing, and some sitting.

Tina took us through each part, slowly and carefully. Eventually we put all the parts together to complete a whole routine.

Tina explained that Tai Chi is something that, as one ages, one can improveupon and reminded us of pictures of elderly Chinese using Tai Chi in public places to wake the body first thing in the morning and aid sleep when performed in the evening.

The ladies in the room certainly enjoyed the movements and felt very relaxed afterwards. We were then told of meridians in the body which are acupressure points. To aid sleep, squeeze the flesh between thumb and forefinger for example.

Finding out the best to eat is a real treat

SHIFNAL TG

BRUSSELS sprouts, broccoli, spinach, mackerel, oats! Healthy eating, with these five items high on the list, was the topic of the evening for Shifnal Townswomen's Guild members at their November meeting, when Nina Geraghty spoke on 'Diet and Nutrition'.

Even those who already knew much on the subject had their knowledge enlarged and their ideas revised as Nina embarked on a fascinating stream of information about the contents and uses of various foods.

Stressing always the value of using fresh, preferably local, produce, Nina proved to be an extremely interesting and entertaining speaker, always ready to share a joke, to provide helpful tips and to respond to questions. Her talk was backed up by a short quiz, with prizes, which she had brought along, and by some delicious samples of her cooking – which were very warmly received!

Speaker Nina Geraghty, left, with group member and quiz winner, Margaret Johnson

Much business was also covered in the meeting. There was a great deal of information from Federation to cover. Members now look forward to a number of festtive events: Federation and National Carol Services, St Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival, a Guild Christmas Party and, first, on November 29, Shifnal's Christmas Lights Switch-On.

Countdown to Christmas

GRANGE E TWG

CHAIRMAN Hazel Smith presided over the meeting held at Grange Court, Stourbridge on November 5. All minutes from the previous meeting were read, approved and signed.

Treasurer Gill Attwood gave members an up to date financial report and secretary Jean Williams informed everyone that the next meeting would be the guild Christmas party. She also announced that the Federation Carol service would be held at St Thomas's Church, Stourbridge on December 14 and that programmes were now available at a cost of 50p to include tea and mince pies in the Church Hall after the service.

Programmes will also be available to purchase at the Church on the day. Marlene O'Hanlon thanked everyone for filling the shoe boxes for charity and these would be taken to a collection point for distribution. Jackie Hill then gave members an evening of fun and games including a Beetle drive, bingo and a quiz. Prizes were awarded to the winning members and Jackie was given a vote of thanks for organising the evening. The raffle was then drawn with several members winning a prize.

There will be no speaker at the next meeting on December 3 due to the Guild Christmas party but entertainment has been arranged.

NEWS

Toilet move kicked up a stink at council meeting

'THIS was always going to cause a bit of a stink,' was one councillor's take on the relocation of Dudley's public toilets when it was approved.

Dudley Council's planning committee last week backed the authority's own plans to close the existing block in Market Place, in favour of redeveloping the Levines furniture store in Castle Street.

The scheme was approved despite questions from Councillor Timothy Wright, who asked why the officers had picked a new location at 'the back of beyond' rather than filling units which were currently empty in the busier part of town, near Argos.

Empty

He said: "Why not at least stick them in the middle? It seems a long way for an elderly person to walk when they're caught short while they're doing their shopping.

"There are sites that are empty currently rather than the site that's been chosen.

"This was always going to cause a bit of a stink," Councillor Wright then quipped.

Plans for a new toilet complex were submitted as part a £6 million revamp of the town centre to encourage more shoppers and tourists.

The move has been proposed so the existing toilet block in Market Place can be demolished to create a clear view of Dudley Castle.

Councillor Wright's comments came against a backdrop of complaints from neighbouring businesses to the proposals.

Levines manager Chris Parry and the other two members of staff at the store are being located to sister stores in the area after the firm was given notice on its lease from the council. That shop closes in January.

Councillor Colin Wilson also raised the fact that another neighbouring business to the proposed new toilet block was a hot food takeaway.

He said it would be necessary to ensure the toilets were 'meticulously managed' by their attendant.

Family help needed

Researchers Lis Corfield and Joy Marshall pictured with Mayoress Heather Finch, researcher Guy Marshall, and the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Finch

THREE researchers looking into the lives of local people who died serving their country in the two world wars are hoping to track down families to help them write a book.

Historians from the Wall Heath and Kingswinford War Memorial Research Group, Lis Corfield and Joy and Guy Marshall, have been looking into the lives of nearly 110 men from Wall Heath and Kingswinford, who died in the First and Second World Wars.

They are compiling a book about the men's lives in time to commemorate 100 years since the beginning of the First World War next year, after being granted Heritage Lottery Fund money.

They are hoping to speak to the men's families and descendants to get personal accounts and photographs of the heroes.

Call Miss Corfield on 01384 401086 or Mrs Marshall on 07739 572121.

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THE WAY I SEE IT

Deep concern at move to close children centres

Dudley South Conservative MP Chris Kelly takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

'I think most people would agree that these children's centres are exactly the kind of thing that the council should be prioritising instead of planning to close them'

I'M deeply concerned about Labour-controlled Dudley Council's plans to close up to seven children's centres in our borough.

There are more than 3,000 Sure Start centres in England — just 45 have actually closed since 2010. Yet Labour has decided to close almost 15 per cent of that national total here in Dudley.

This is short-sighted as figures show the number of parents using children's centres has increased to more than a million under this Government.

Government funding for early intervention has increased from £2.2bn in 2011-12 to £2.5bn in 2014-15 and councils continue to have the freedom to spend this where it is needed most, including children's centres.

Every bit of the public sector needs to do their bit to pay off the budget deficit inherited from the Labour Government, including local government which accounts for a quarter of all public spending. But councils like Dudley Council should focus on cutting waste and making sensible savings to protect frontline services and keep Council Tax down.

I'm not sure that most people would agree that the council is run so efficiently that the only way that it can find these savings is by cutting essential services like children's centres.

There is simply no justification for closing the children's centres in Kingswinford & Wall Heath and Wordsley.

The council gets a level of funding from the Government through various channels, like business rates and early intervention funding. It is then the council's responsibility to make sure that it uses that money to provide the services our community needs.

Dudley has also received an increase in public heath funding, which could be used to support many of the services that children's centres provide.

I'm strongly supporting local residents against the possible closure of Kingswinford & Wall Heath and Wordsley children's centres.

I think the council is making a big mistake in threatening to close them.

These are centres that look after some of the most vulnerable people in the community and the closure would have a huge impact.

The council gets money from the Government and it is up to the council to prioritise its funding.

Of course budgets are tight for councils, like they are for Government and for most families, but the council needs to prioritise their spending.

I think most people would agree that these children's centres are exactly the kind of thing that the council should be prioritising instead of planning to close them.

All affected residents need to make their voice heard and take part in Dudley MBC's consultation which runs until January 3, 2014.

The consultation documents are available via www.chriskelly.mp and clicking the link.

■■■

I was honoured to once again attend the Remembrance Sunday parade and service in Kingswinford.

Starting at the Royal British Legion Club on Summerhill, Kingswinford, I marched with veterans and uniformed organisations to St Mary's Church, where I laid a wreath, for two minute's silence at 11 and a service of Remembrance.

■■■

I was back from the Commons again later in the week working out of my constituency office in Kingswinford. I also attended meetings with local Conservative councillors, council candidates and members at Kingswinford Conservative Club.

After voting in the Commons for an early referendum on European Union membership I was back out delivering my Christmas cards and Kingswinford North & Wall Heath Conservatives InTouch leaflets with members and supporters on a crisp Saturday morning.

■■■

Chris Kelly can be contacted via 01384 211 041, office@chriskelly.mp or House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. You can also read his latest news and views at www.chriskelly.mp

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NEWS

Team work was key to enjoying firefighting

Firefighter Mick Jeavons says goodbye to his colleagues after 30 years a firefighter

Camaraderie – Reg Davies

THEY have clocked up more than half a century of service between them and battled thousands of blazes across the region.

And now two West Midlands Fire Service firefighters have said goodbye to the brigade on their retirement, after living 'every boy's dream' for a generation.

Mick Jeavons, based at Dudley fire station, and Reg Davies from Brierley Hill, have worked for the brigade for 30 years and 22 years respectively and both said the camaraderie of the team was what made them love the job.

Dudley-born Mr Jeavons, 54, joined the fire service in November 1983.

He said: "It was just a great career and every boy's dream to ride on the fire engine. It was always something I had wanted to be."

Watch

After training in Coventry, the former Holly Hall School pupil was posted to Halesowen where he worked for five years.

He then transferred to Dudley's former station in Tower Street, before the current station opened in Burton Road, where he has been with Green Watch for 25 years.

The father-of-three described working in the fire brigade as 'the best job in the world'.

Reg Davies, aged 53, from Wolverhampton, is also retiring after 22 years based at Brierley Hill fire station. He joined the service in 1991 following a 10-year stint as an engineer in the Royal Navy.

Before then he worked as an apprentice engineer at Guy Motors in Wolverhampton. The former Heath Park School student said: "My highlights of the job were the odd callouts and the jobs where you saved lives, but mostly, the camaraderie of the team."

He added: "I will miss the friends I worked with and I hope to remain in contact with many of them."

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Angry man is jailed for smashing shop window

A THIEF threw a bottle smashing a shop window, a court heard.

Martin Perry was jailed for 10 months after he stole eight bottles of booze from Everything Criss Supermarket in Dudley.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that Perry went into the shop in June. He was seen to select a number of bottles before making his way out of the store.

Perry, aged 53, then hurled a bottle at the front of the premises.

Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, said that after his arrest Perry, who appeared via video link, was taken to the police station where he caused £200 damage to a mattress in his cell before spitting in the face of one of the officers.

Mr Jon Roe, defending, said: "He accepts he should not have acted in the way he did.

"After his release from prison he found himself struggling to pay bills and keep a roof over his head.

"He was at a very low ebb in his life and he knows he behaved foolishly."

The court heard Perry was taking anger management sessions and was studying to improve his chances of finding a job.

Unpleasant

Judge Michael Dudley told him: "What you did must have been particularly unpleasant for the trainee shop assistant and breaking the window added to her concern.

"The further damage you did was stupid and it was also a particularly unpleasant common assault on the police officer."

Perry, of Sweetman Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton admitted two charges of criminal damage, common assault and theft.

Take a look at her now, a top author

Miranda Dickinson's latest book, Take a Look at Me Now, has sold 50,000 copies

FIVE books published, five Sunday Times bestsellers with 500,000 copies sold – not bad for a girl from Kingswinford, says author Miranda Dickinson.

This month she is celebrating the success of her latest book Take A Look At Me Now which, after being published last month, has already sold 50,000 copies and has reached third in the overall book chart. It is also top of the Amazon contemporary romance chart and fourth in the bestsellers list by Sunday Times.

From Kingswinford School to working as a nuclear power station tour guide in Essex and returning to the Black Country, the 40-year-old has only been writing professionally for five years.

After being discovered via a story she wrote for an internet forum, Ms Dickinson has now published five novels, starting with the worldwide hit Fairytale of New York in 2009.

"It has been amazing, really," she said."From an early age I always told people I wanted to write, people would nod their head and say the usual, but here I am, I can't believe it. I come from Kingswinford, this doesn't happen to people like me."

She is already putting together a draft for her next novel, which will be 'an almost sequel' to her first book Fairytale of New York. She reveals that many of her characters are inspired by people she meets in the Black Country.

She will be meeting fans at Netherton Library on December 5 and Jilly's Coffee Shop in Kingswinford on December 6.

From top to bottom – Ken Bullock, of Beacon Centre, Chairman, Wilf Ellis, Arwyn Jones, Beacon Centre Chief Executive, Alex Hamil, JW Hunt President, Tony Duncan, JW Hunt Chairman, Keith Jackson, Jan Smith, from sponsor Barclays, Manmohan Singh and Walter Wakeman

Cup competition raises £7k for Beacon Centre

AN HISTORIC football tournament has helped to raise £7,000 for a charity for blind people. Organisers of the JW Hunt Cup handed over the cash to Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind.

The money will be used to help people with sight problems in the Black Country live fuller more independent lives. Money was raised through fees to games and programme costs.

The cup is open to amateur teams across the region. Black Country Rangers were the winners after beating Wolverhampton Casuals 4-3 in a match at the Molineux in May.

Proud

The competition started in 1926 and the cup has over the years raised more than £284,000 for the Beacon Centre.

More than 30 teams are taking part in the new campaign, with Black Country Rangers hoping to make it three triumphs on the bounce.

Jenni Fryer, fundraising manager at Beacon Centre for the Blind, said: "We are extremely proud to be associated with this historic competition and grateful to everyone involved in the JW Hunt Cup for raising this incredible amount of money to help people who are blind or visually imparied in the Black Country.

"We are all avid football fans at the Beacon Centre and offer our congratulations to Black Country Rangers for a fine performance last season."

Prestigious support slot for singer-songwriter, 20

DUDLEY singer-songwriter Sunjay Brayne has been chosen to support folk-rock legends Steeleye Span for several dates on their Wintersmith tour.

Brayne, 20, launched his new live album at Stourbridge Folk Club at Katie Fitzgerald's in the town last week.

Brayne said: "I am really excited about being asked to support Steeleye Span on their Winter tour."

He added: "It's a fantastic opportunity for any artist, but at a stage where I'm just really starting out, it's an amazing opportunity."

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NEWS

Winter wonderland dream

Melodie Williams wants to create a winter wonderland for her seriously ill son Mason to make Christmas extra special

MELODIE Williams has one wish this Christmas – that her seriously-ill son has a very special festive season.

She does not know what the future holds for her son Mason but she is determined to make the most of all of the time she has with him.

Mrs Williams has launched a fundraising bid to transform the garden of her Rowley Regis home into a winter wonderland.

"We don't know what the future is for him," she said.

"I wanted to do it because he loves lights and if I didn't do it now, and something happened to him, I would regret it."

Mason, aged three, the youngest of Mrs Williams' five children, was born with a condition commonly known as having 'half a heart' – Hypoplastic left heart syndrome.

Operations

He also has a rare condition called micro-deletion, which means he is missing 53 genes and also has development delay.

Despite the fact he is partially-sighted in his right eye, Mason enjoys lights and sensory activities.

Mrs Williams, 41, said Mason had undergone a combination of operations to 're-plumb' his heart but, due to pressures in his lungs, he is currently unable to have the final stage of the procedure.

The care he has been given to date is palliative and if his condition does not improve as he grows, he will not be put on the list for a heart and lung transplant.

Mrs Williams, of Mountford Close, said she had the idea of a winter wonderland so he could have happy memories of this Christmas.

To donate items for her winter wonderland project, email melodie_williams@hot mail.co.uk

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Urgent care in Dudley could be changing

NHS
Dudley
Clinical Commissioning Group

We want your views!

Have your say at one of our drop-in sessions

We want to hear from local people about our proposed plans to make urgent care in Dudley better and easier to access for patients.

The proposals we are currently consulting on include:

- Moving some of the urgent care services currently provided at the Holly Hall Walk In Centre to a new Urgent Care Centre on the Russell's Hall hospital site.
- Investing extra money in family doctor services to make it easier for people to get a GP appointment.
- Making sure that all urgent care services work together more effectively for patients - including GP services at evenings and weekends and the 111 telephone helpline.

Drop-in Sessions

Thursday 28th November
12pm to 2pm
Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre
Venture Way
Brierley Hill
DY5 1RU

Saturday 30th November
12pm to 4pm
Brierley Hill Lights Switch On & Christmas Fair
Insight House
Pearson Street
Brierley Hill, DY5 3BL

Thursday 12th December
12pm to 2pm
Dudley Council Plus
259 Castle Street
Dudley
DY1 1LQ

Thursday 12th December
6.30pm to 8pm
Stourbridge Town Hall
Crown Lane
Stourbridge
West Midlands
DY8 1YE

Tuesday 17th December
6.30pm to 8pm
Main Hall
Dudley College
The Broadway
Dudley
DY1 4AS

If you can't make it to one of these meetings, don't worry - there are other ways for you to find out more and have your say. Please see our website at www.dudleyccg.nhs.uk/urgent-care for more information, or ring us on 01384 322777.

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NEWS

Cat crisis as charity pleads for more help

Sue Widdows of Halesowen and District Cats Protection with some of the cats and kittens which need loving homes

A CHARITY has been 'inundated' with cats and kittens sparking an urgent appeal for animal lovers to offer them a new home.

Halesowen and District branch of Cats Protection said dozens of cats and kittens had been brought to them recently.

The situation is now so serious emergency carers are now being used to look after the animals.

The branch is now having to turn away animals but is holding a rehoming day on Saturday to highlight the problem. Residents who would like to give a loving home to a cat are being urged to get in touch.

Emergency

Housing officer for the branch Sue Widdows said: "I know it is the same for all of our branches in the area. There has been a rise in the number of cats we are being asked to take in. We have six people who foster for us and three emergency carers.

"Our members look after the cats and kittens at their homes and all have now taken in animals.

"Me and my husband, the charity's welfare officer, have also taken in some of the animals to help out."

Mrs Widdows said the present economic situation was believed to be the cause of so many animals needing homes. Mrs Widdows can be contacted on 0121 550 6743.

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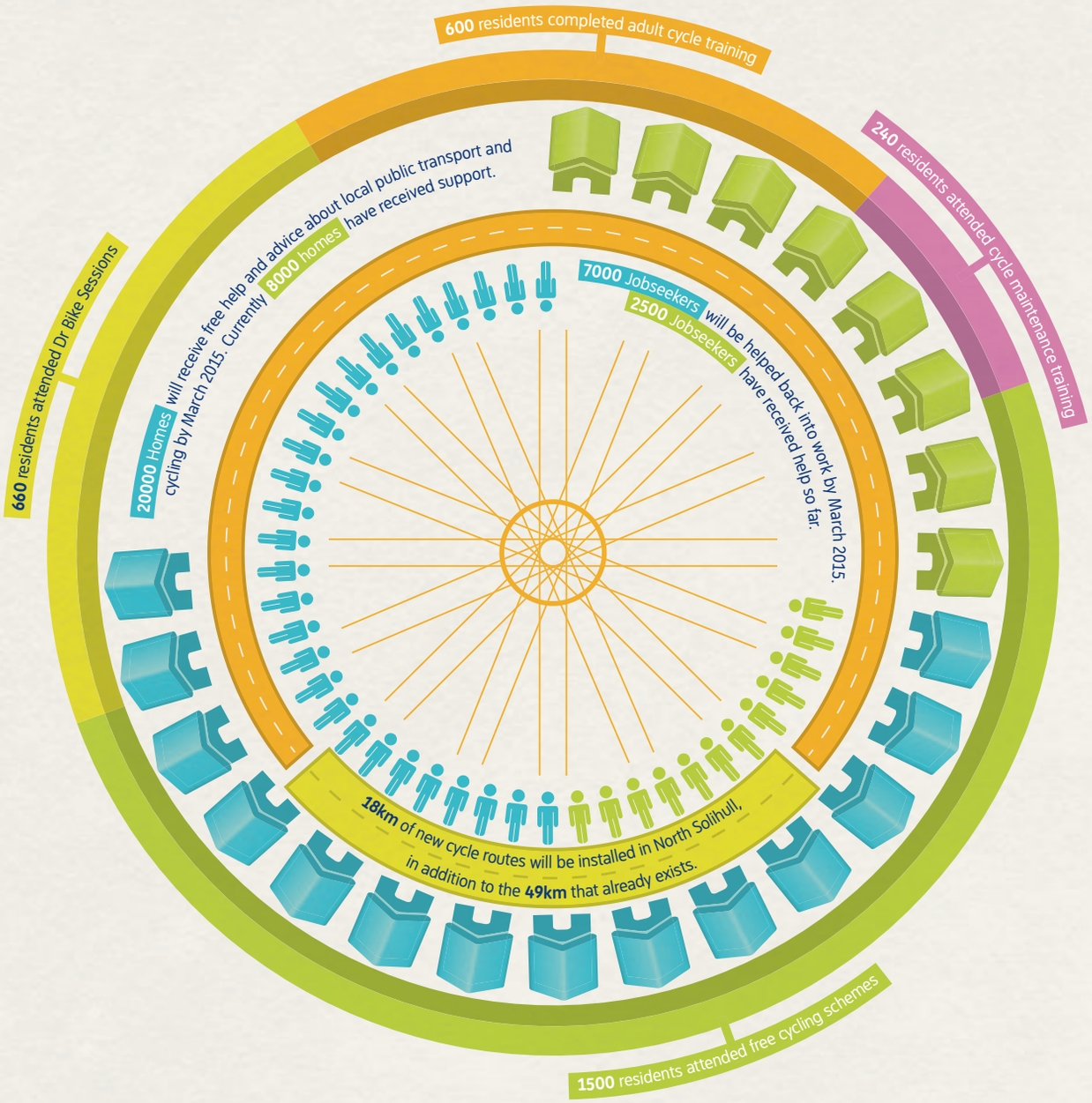

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MEMORY LANE

Birthday milestone and it's in triplicate

WHEN Mary Haden gave birth back in 1943, she couldn't believe her eyes.

She had been told to expect twins, and sure enough Dr Donald Cunningham, of Dudley's Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home, delivered two bouncing baby boys. But something told Dr Cunningham that his work was not yet done.

"I was the surprise package," jokes David Haden, who is by 20 minutes the youngest of the three brothers.

The trio, David, Derek and Don celebrate their 70th birthdays on Sunday.

For much of their childhood, the Lower Gornal triplets enjoyed minor celebrity status, with many landmark moments in their lives being recorded in The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star.

"We got a lot of attention when we were growing up," recalls Derek. "There was always a lot of interest in birthdays and anniversaries."

Newsagents

From an early age, the youngsters were steeped in the family tradition of being newsagents, with David and Don both going on to keep shops of their own.

"Until we were around 14, we lived in a little two-bedroomed house at the back of the shop, with three of us to a bed," adds Derek. "There were six of us living there.

"As well as my parents, there was my uncle who never married, he had been a prisoner of war, and we only had one downstairs room because the front room had been turned into the shop. We never had any indoor washing facilities until we moved."

Mother Mary, whose maiden name had been Jones, kept the shop, Jones News, which she had inherited from her family, and was helped by husband Wilfred, who also worked as a builder.

From an early age the youngsters found themselves working in the shop and delivering papers. They went to Red Hall infants and junior schools in Lower Gornal. After passing his 11-plus, Don went to Brierley Hill Grammar School, while Derek and David went to Robert Street School, near the shop.

Triplets parents Mary and Wilf Haden

Newborns in arms of mother Mary

Jones News was sold to the Stars News chain in the late 1960s and at the age of 25 David set up his own shop in Central Drive, Lower Gornal, in 1968. Don initially chose a different career path, studying electrical engineering at Aston University before joining the MEB. When David decided to open a new shop, Haden's News in Dudley Street, Sedgley, in 1972, Don decided to follow in his footsteps by buying the Gornal shop from him.

"I sometimes used to help out in David's shop when he was on holiday, and it used to confuse a few of the customers when they came in and didn't realise it wasn't David," says Don.

Although Derek, who lives in Askew Bridge Road, Lower Gornal, has also helped out at the family's shops, he was never tempted to go into the business himself, instead opting for the craftsman's life, making decorative tiled fireplaces for S & W in Himley Road.

David, of Richmond Gardens, Wombourne, retired in 2002, but he still regularly returns to his old shop.

David, who celebrated his 40th wedding anniversary to wife Jennifer in March, has two sons. Matthew, 39, is a police officer, while Philip, 36, is a financial consultant.

Derek, who married Jacqueline in 1970, himself has twin sons – 40-year-olds Mark, who works in sales, and Tesco manager Richard. He also has a 37-year-old daughter Sarah, who works as a secretary for the British Nordic Ski Squad. He retired from his work eight years ago, and spends much of his free time with his four grandchildren.

Don, who married in 1967, has two children, Nick, 39, a neurosurgeon, and Nina, 35, a paediatric nurse.

The triplets, families and friends celebrate their birthday with a celebration meal.

Triplets, from left, Don, Derek, and David Haden were celebrating their 70th birthday on Sunday, November 14, and below the triplets in matching outfits are pictured when they were aged about three

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PILKINGTON FENSA

Actors prepare for a big Night

AN AWARD-WINNING drama group for people with learning disabilities has been picked to go on stage with the Royal Shakespeare Company – for the second time.

Stourbridge-based Side by Side actors are now into rehearsals to present their version of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night in the town next summer.

Seventeen of the group's 30 actors will perform the play at Stourbridge Town Hall from June 25 to 28.

Pictured getting ready for the forthcoming play is Sarah Field, 39, front, with theatre group members

Conman gets four years for preying on elderly

HE PREYED on elderly and vulnerable residents as he concocted lies about a sick wife to extort hundreds of pounds at the doorstep.

Darren Hemmings, who was a conman trying to fund his drug habit, caused his victims – many aged over 80 – distress by pressuring them to part with cash.

Disgraceful

A judge branded his crimes 'utterly disgraceful' as he jailed the 44-year-old for four years at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

Hemmings, of Hurcott Road, Kidderminster, pleaded guilty at a previous hearing to seven charges of fraud by false representation to obtain cash.

Hemmings asked for seven similar offences to be taken into consideration.

The court heard he dreamt up different lies to deceive the often 'vulnerable' residents and dupe them into handing over cash at homes as he carried out the fraud in Stourbridge, Halesowen and Hagley, the court heard

Mr Mark Phillips, prosecuting, said the offences took place mainly against victims aged between 75 and 94 during June, July and August of this year.

It was revealed that Hemmings had around 29 previous convictions for similar offences including 'dishonesty' crimes since he first offended in 1988.

Judge Martin Walsh told Hemmings: "You have got an appalling record for committing offences of this sort.

"These were utterly disgraceful crimes committed against vulnerable and elderly members of the community."

Keep an eye on your pint

Co-owners Alan Preece, left, and Paul Williams open their new micro brewery, complete with its own bar and lounge on Gainsborough Trading Estate

BEER drinkers can now watch a local ale being brewed from a stylish bar with a pint of it in their hand.

The Badelynge Bar is due to open tomorrow (Friday) at at the Green Duck Beer Company micro-brewery on an industrial estate in Stourbridge.

It is the brainchild of company directors Paul Williams and Alan Preece, who have spent four months converting the former engineering unit in the Gainsborough Industrial Estate.

Glass

The unit is split down the middle with a glass wall – with fermenting tanks to make the firm's speciality beers one one side, and a lounge for up to 120 drinkers on the other.

The lounge features a bar, a pub-styled corner with a sofa and table as well as about a dozen wooden tables.

Mr Williams and Mr Preece plan to open to the public every Friday and Saturday.

Black Country building society choose new boss

A NEW chief executive for the Tipton and Coseley Building Society has been appointed and takes over from the start of next month.

Richard Newton, 43, currently the society's finance director, will succeed long-serving Chris Martin who retires on Saturday. Mr Newton said the society, which has branches in Tipton, Coseley, Bilston and Sedgley, remains committed to providing mortgage advice for local customers under new regulations.

Marcus Daly, the Tipton's chairman, said: "The board undertook a rigorous selection process, working closely with a specialist executive recruitment firm to select a suitable successor, and is extremely pleased to have appointed someone of Richard's calibre to replace Chris as chief executive.

Mr Newton said:"I am pleased and honoured to be succeeding Chris. My approach will build upon the ethos of the Tipton."

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SAVE 70%
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THE BIG CLEARANCE STARTS FRIDAY 29th NOVEMBER 10.00 am

Magnificent seven set for New Alex

BIRMINGHAM New Alexandra Theatre hosts a new version of a classic American musical early in the new year.

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers with former East-Ender actor and Dancing On Ice champion Sam Attwater and Helena Blackman, a How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria finalist, is on from February 3 to 8.

The toe-tapping frontier musical is described as a high energy production by award-winning American director and choreographer Patti Colombo.

Wendy ready to fly off with Peter Pan

EXCITEMENT is growing over the Royal Shakespeare Company's new version of much-loved children's fantasy Peter Pan, which will be staged in Stratford from December 10 to March 2.

Entitled Wendy and Peter Pan, Ella Hickson's adaptation of JM Barrie's classic aims to keep all the magic of Neverland whilst providing a few twists and surprises. Holby City actor Guy Henry will be swapping his surgeon's scalpel for a sword to play the dastardly Captain Hook

Susan's dream tour

JUST as Meryl Streep is rumoured to be playing her in a biopic, singing sensation Susan Boyle has announced a 2014 UK tour including dates at Birmingham Symphony Hall on April 2 and Stoke's Regent Theatre on April 10.

Panto time again, oh yes it is, as there's nothing like a dame

Gok tells who is the fairest of them all

THERE is no doubt who will decide the fairest of them all when TV fashionista Gok Wan appears in Birmingham's pantomime Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

The 39-year-old star of Gok's Fashion Fix, Gok's Style Secrets and How To Look Good Naked will be making his panto debut in the UK's biggest festive show.

But it's not the only major show in Birmingham this Christmas with several panto alternatives on offer.

The refurbished Birmingham Rep is staging Charles Dickens classic A Christmas Carol from now until January 4. Meanwhile, The Old Rep has Tom's Midnight Garden until January 25.

Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre hosts a musical alternative with Dave Stewart and Glen Ballard's hit musical version of Ghost. The tale of love conquering death is a blend of impressive special effects, music, romance and comedy including the timelesss hit song Unchained Melody. It is on from December 17 to January 5.

Snow White and the Wicked Queen will get style advice from Gok Wan as The Man in the Mirror in Birmingham Hippodrome's pantomime this festive season

CERI Dupree and Gary Wilmott will battle it out in the war of the dames when the region's big two pantomimes open next month.

Ceri plays Queen Passionella in Sleeping Beauty at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, co-starring with funnyman Joe Pasquale as Muddles and Coronation Street's Lucy Evans as Princess Beauty. The Grand panto opens on Saturday, December 7, and runs until January 8.

Meanwhile, Birmingham Hippodrome will host the UK's biggest panto with its star-studded version of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

West End star Gary Wilmot will be putting on the frocks to play the dame in a production that features TV fashion guru Gok Wan as The Man In The Mirror and Dynasty actress Stephanie Beacham as the Wicked Queen. Over The Rainbow winner Danielle Hope, who played Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz at the London Palladium, is Snow White.

The panto, featuring further comic support from ventriloquist Paul Zerdin as Muddles and Matt Slack as Oddjob, will run at the Hurst Street venue from Thursday, December 19, to February 2.

To book for Sleeping Beauty call 01902 429212 or to book for Snow White call 0844 338 5000, or see the theatres' websites.

Ceri Dupree, dame in the Grand's Sleeping Beauty

Gary Wilmot in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Hands on as band are own support

AWARD-WINNING band Show of Hands is coming to Wolverhampton next month as part of the Devon group's celebration of 21 years making music.

Coming towards the end of a 30-date tour, SoH will be playing the Wulfrun Hall on December 4 in one of the band's last gigs until autumn next year.

The partnership of multi-talented Steve Knightley and Phil Beer will be teaming up with Miranda Sykes to not only play as a band but to be their own support too.

The show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £18 and available on 0870 320 7000 or online at www.wolvescivic.co.uk and subject to booking fees.

Railway Children arrive at town hall

STOURBRIDGE Theatre Company bring their version of classic family drama The Railway Children to the stage at Stourbridge Town Hall from tonight (Thursday) until Saturday, including Saturday matinee.

Dave Simpson has adapted E Nesbit's novel. Tickets cost £9 (concessions £8) and £5 for children aged 14 and under. Tickets are available from The French Deli, Dudley Council Plus, or via 01384 812812.

Manford's dates

MANCUNIAN comic Jason Manford brings his First World Problems Tour to Dudley Town Hall on Monday and Tuesday.

What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 30.11.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Bruce Forsyth

Strictly Come Dancing BBC1, 7pm
So far we've had the romance of a love week and the frights of Halloween – now the seven remaining couples will be paying homage to musicals from stage and screen. If the routines turn out to be more worthy of a Golden Raspberry award than an Oscar, there will at least be a group dance by the professionals to the title song from Cole Porter's classic Anything Goes. No doubt judges Len Goodman, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood will be on their feet applauding after that. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Food & Drink. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. Gabby Logan meets cycling star Becky James. **1.45** Live Rugby League World Cup Final. Coverage from Old Trafford (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** My Family Christmas Special. (R)
6.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
6.15 Pointless Celebrities. With Graeme Garden, Dan Snow, Susie Dent, and Germaine Greer.
7.00 Strictly Come Dancing. The twinkle-toed contestants celebrate songs from musicals as they take another step closer to lifting the glitterball trophy. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present.
8.15 Atlantis. Medusa is kidnapped and held to ransom.
9.00 Casualty. Fletch races to save two boys from a dangerous predator, while Sam helps a former wartime spy regain her home and Ash treats a girl who has accidentally eaten her pet cat's ashes.
9.50 The National Lottery Live. Chris Evans reveals the results.
10.00 BBC News; Weather.
10.20 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Cardiff City v Arsenal; National Lottery Update.
11.40 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.
12.55 Weatherview. **1.00** News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **7.00 Film:** Dean Spanley. (2008) **8.35 Film:** On the Town. (1949) **10.10** Reel History of Britain. (R) **10.40** The Life of Birds. (R) **11.30** Refugees of the Lost Rainforest. **12.00** The Great British Bake Off Christmas Masterclass. (R) **1.00** Live Snooker: UK Championship. Coverage of the first round at the Barbican Centre in York. **4.30** Live International Rugby Union. Wales v Australia (Kick-off 5.00pm).
7.00 Jonathan Davies – Trimsaran Boy. Profile of former rugby player Jonathan Davies.
8.00 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring organises a dance in an attempt to boost platoon morale, but Pike interrupts proceedings to make an important announcement regarding his girlfriend Violet. (R)
8.30 The Secret Life of Mary Poppins: A Culture Show Special. Victoria Coren Mitchell explores the life of author PL Travers, whose books the film Mary Poppins was based on.
9.30 QI XL. Extended edition. Janet Street-Porter, Sandi Toksvig and Johnny Vegas join regular panellist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions on the topic of kinky.
10.15 Film: Carnage. (2011) Premiere. Black comedy, with Jodie Foster, Kate Winslet, Christoph Walz and John C Reilly.
11.35 Snooker: UK Championship. Action from the opening round at the Barbican Centre in York.
12.25 Snooker: UK Championship Extra. **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Caninmals. (R) **7.15** Text Santa: Help with Hattitude. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.45** Text Santa: Help with Hattitude. (R) **7.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **8.15** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.30** Munch Box. **9.25** The Home of Fabulous Cakes. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Surprise Surprise. (R) **12.35 Film:** Holiday On the Buses. (1973) **2.15** Doc Martin. (R) **3.15 Film:** Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. (2001)
6.05 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.15 ITV News; Weather.
6.30 New You've Been Framed! Featuring babysitting tips from a cross-dressing father.
7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. With Eric Bristow, Sammy Winward, Nadine Dorries and Ed Byrne.
8.00 The X Factor. With places in next week's semi-final at stake, the pressure has never been higher as the acts each perform two songs – one of them chosen by the public. Dermot O'Leary hosts.
9.45 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! The latest eliminated contestant talks to Ant and Dec about their time in the camp, and the Geordie duo present the usual round-up of highlights from the past 24 hours.
10.50 The Jonathan Ross Show. Celebrity interviews.
11.50 ITV News; Weather.**12.05** Take Me Out. (R) **1.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 FIA GT Series. **7.05** Volleyball. (R) **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** The American Football Show. **10.05** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Heston's Gothic Horror Feast. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. Becky Tyler hosts the fourth dinner party from Bath. (R)
6.05 Come Dine with Me. Frenchman Denis Verrier hosts the final dinner party in Bath. (R)
6.35 Channel 4 News.
7.05 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. Coulson and his team are haunted by a mysterious force that threatens to destroy them all, and only a secret from May's past can save them. (R)
8.00 The Lakes: Walking Through History. Tony Robinson walks 50 miles from Penrith to Ambleside and on to the Irish Sea at Ravenglass, exploring how the Romans conquered the Lake District.
9.00 Charlie Brooker's How Videogames Changed the World. The broadcaster delves into the history of the games industry and celebrates some of its most significant titles, joined by Jonathan Ross, Dara O Briain and leading designers.
11.05 Indie Game: The Movie. Following the development of three independent video games.
1.10 Stand Up for the Week. (R) **1.55** Fresh Meat. (R) **2.40** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.45** 90210. **5.25** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.35** Slugterra. **11.00** Inside Hollywood. **11.10** Ben Fogle's Animal Clinic. (R) **12.10 Film:** Trading Christmas. (2011) Romantic comedy, starring Faith Ford and Gil Bellows. **1.55 Film:** Christmas Mail. (2010) Premiere. Festive romantic comedy, starring Ashley Scott and AJ Buckley. **3.45 Film:** The Christmas Gift. (2009) Festive drama, starring Dean Cain. **5.40 Film:** Meet the Santas. (2005) Fantasy comedy sequel, with Steve Guttenberg.
7.20 Film: A Carol Christmas. (2003) A TV talk-show host gets a shock when three spirits each pay her a visit to teach her a valuable lesson. Festive comedy drama, with Tori Spelling, Dinah Manoff and Michael Landes. Edited for language.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 The Bible. New series. Drama based on the major events of the holy scriptures, beginning with Noah telling his children how the world was created. Starring David Rintoul.
10.55 Film: Heartbreak Ridge. (1986) A hellraising US Marine is assigned to whip a squad of recruits into shape for the invasion of Grenada. Action adventure, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. With Marsha Mason.
1.25 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.05** Goering's Last Secret: Revealed. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.10** Doctor Who **8.00** Top Gear **9.00 Film:** Bruce Almighty (2003) **10.35** Russell Howard's Good News **11.05** Family Guy
BBC Four
7.00 Frozen Planet **8.00** Edward VII: Prince of Pleasure **9.00** Borgen **11.00** Queens of British Pop
ITV2
3.30 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.00 Film:** Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **6.55 Film:** Apollo 13 (1995) **9.45** The Xtra Factor **10.50** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.50** Fake Reaction
ITV3
2.40 Film: The Likely Lads (1976) **4.30 Film:** Columbo: Lovely but Lethal (1973) **6.00** A Touch of Frost **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Bomb Girls **11.00 Film:** Interview with the Vampire (1994)
ITV4
12.45 Live Darts. The Players Championship. **5.00** GT Academy **6.00** I Want That Car. Featuring a Jaguar XF and a BMW 3-Series. **7.00** Live Darts. The Players Championship. **11.30 Film:** 8 Mile (2002)
E4
3.00 Made in Chelsea **4.05** Rules of Engagement **5.05** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **7.30** Suburgatory **8.00** New Girl **9.00 Film:** The Twilight Saga: New Moon (2009) **11.35** The Inbetweeners
Film4
2.40 17 Again (2009) **4.35** Planet of the Apes (1968) **6.45** Marley and Me (2008) Comedy drama, starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston. **9.00** Babylon AD (2008) Sci-fi adventure, starring Vin Diesel. **10.45** Kick-Ass (2010)

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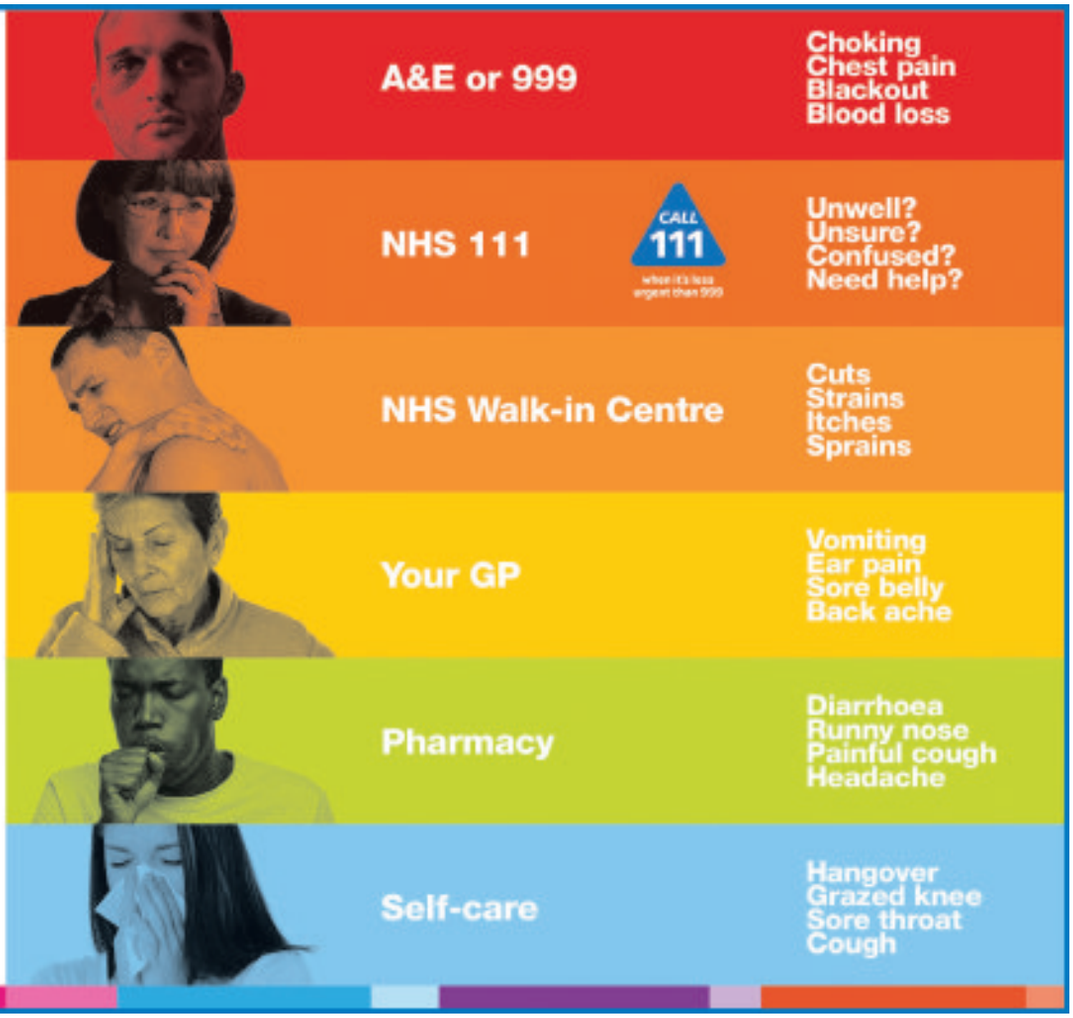

SUNDAY'S TV 1.12.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Tony Robinson

1066: The Lost Battlefield – A Time Team Special
Channel 4, 8pm
This one-off focuses on where the Battle of Hastings was fought in 1066. The title of the conflict should give archaeologists a major clue, but apparently no evidence for it has ever been found – so have they been barking up the wrong tree all these years? Tony Robinson looks on as a dig once again comes up with nothing – but cutting edge aerial technology could hold the key to unlocking secrets a thousand years old, including why Harold lost, and William became a conqueror.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Susan Boyle. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** EastEnders. **3.10** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. **3.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.15** Songs of Praise. David Grant joins the festive preparations on the Isle of Man. **5.50** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.20 Countryfile. Testing out the Peak District leg of next year's Tour de France.

7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, leaving their fates in the hands of the judges, and Alfie Boe performs a song from Les Miserables.

8.00 The Paradise. Katherine learns the truth about her marriage, an indecent proposal leaves Clara questioning who she really is and Denise's suspicions about Moray and Katherine are confirmed.

9.00 Britain and the Sea. David Dimbleby follows the trade routes of the west coast of Scotland, sailing down a waterway designed by East Lothian engineer John Rennie and boarding a Clyde puffer.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester United.

11.45 The Sky at Night. The team hunts for Comet Ison.

12.05 Weatherview. **12.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **7.05 Film:** Battle Cry. (1955) **9.30** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **10.00** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **10.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.00** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.45** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **1.30** Live Snooker: UK Championship. The second round continues. **5.30** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. (R)

6.00 Flog It! The team meets people keen to sell their antiques at auction in Weston-super-Mare, and Paul Martin learns about the town's history. (R)

7.00 Cuba with Simon Reeve. How economic liberalisation has affected Cubans and their society. (R)

8.00 Great Continental Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels from Bordeaux to Bilbao. Last in the series.

9.00 Morecambe and Wise: The Whole Story. Part two of two. A look at how Eric and Ernie bounced back from the failure of their first TV series to become the nation's most popular entertainers. Dean Lennox Kelly narrates.

10.30 Hebburn. Joe and Dot take advantage of the extra freedom when Pauline goes away. (R)

11.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Warwick Davis hosts, with Tom Fletcher, Emma Willis, Alfie Boe and Chris Ramsey. (R)

11.30 Snooker: UK Championship. Highlights from the Barbican Centre in York.

12.20 Snooker: UK Championship Extra. **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.15** Holby City. (R) **4.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Text Santa: Help with Hattitude. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.45** Text Santa: Help with Hattitude. (R) **7.50** Victorious. **8.15** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Storage Hoarders. (R) **10.30** Sunday Side Up. **11.30** Sunday Scoop. **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Countrywise. (R) **12.55** Inside the National Trust. **1.55** Love Your Garden. (R) **2.55** The X Factor. (R) **4.40** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **5.40** Prize Island. Game show, hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Emma Willis. Last in the series.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Surprise Surprise. Cilla Black and Rod Stewart take part. Last in the series.

8.00 The X Factor Results. Featuring performances by James Arthur and Rebecca Ferguson.

9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! The campers battle hunger, the jungle and each other as their third week continues, but the experience is over for one of them with Ant and Dec announcing another elimination.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Off Their Rockers. An OAP attempts escapology for the first time. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights of the weekend's top-flight fixtures.

12.15 The Store. **2.15** Motorsport UK. **3.05** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The American Football Show. (R) **7.05** FIA GT Series. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** Gadget Man. (R) **3.25 Film:** Monster-in-Law. (2005) **5.25 Film:** Sister Act. (1992) Comedy, starring Whoopi Goldberg.

7.25 Channel 4 News.

7.55 The Political Slot.

8.00 1066: The Lost Battlefield – A Time Team Special. Tony Robinson and the team embark on excavations at Battle Abbey and nearby Caldbec Hill in an attempt to uncover the true location of the Battle of Hastings.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie reunites with Brody, but the circumstances are more difficult than either of them could have imagined. Meanwhile, Saul receives good news from an unlikely source.

10.00 Rock Night: 50 Years of Rock Excess – Amps, Whips and Rebel Riffs. The history of the enduring music genre, telling the story of how the giant bands of the 1970s changed rock for ever.

11.10 Rock Night: Queens of the Stone Age – iTunes Festival Special. The rock group perform at the Roundhouse in London.

12.05 Rock Night: Queen – Live at Wembley. A performance from 1986. (R) **1.10** American Football Live. Washington Redskins v New York Giants (Kick-off 1.30am). **4.50** KOTV Boxing Weekly. (R) **5.20** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **5.25** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Mio Mao. (R) **7.45** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. **10.00** The Mr Men Show. (R) **10.15** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.50** Slugterra. **11.15** Jungle Babies: Tarsier Tails. (R) **11.45** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.45 Film:** I'll Be Home for Christmas. (1998) **2.30 Film:** Snow Dogs. (2002) **4.20 Film:** Happy Feet. (2006)

6.20 5 News Weekend.

6.25 Film: Spider-Man 3. (2007) Superhero sequel, with Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst.

9.00 Film: Warrior. (2011) Premiere. Two estranged brothers enter a mixed martial arts tournament, which gradually brings them into conflict with each other. Drama, with Joel Edgerton.

11.45 Treblinka: Inside Hitler's Secret Death Camp. British archaeologists excavate the site of the concentration camp. (R)

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.05** The Gadget Show. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Jack Whitehall Live **10.00** Family Guy **10.25** The Revolution Will Be Televised **10.55** Family Guy **11.20** American Dad! **11.45** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 Rick Stein Tastes the Blues **8.00** Danny Boy: The Ballad That Bewitched the World **9.00** The Man Who Brought the Blues to Britain: Big Bill Broonzy **10.00 Film:** Of Gods and Men (2010) **11.55** Blues America

ITV2
3.40 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **4.45 Film:** The Little Vampire (2000) **6.45 Film:** Small Soldiers (1998) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** You've Been Framed! **10.30** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.35 Film:** State of Play (2009)

ITV3
2.30 A Touch of Frost **4.30** Inspector Morse **6.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Lewis. A college reunion takes a tragic turn when a guest is found murdered. **11.00** Blue Murder

ITV4
12.45 Live Darts. **5.00** Police, Camera, Action! **5.30** Storage Wars **6.00** Duck Dynasty **7.00** Live Darts. **11.00** The Power of Darts

E4
4.00 How I Met Your Mother **6.00** Rules of Engagement **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** My Super Ex-Girlfriend (2006) **10.00** Rude Tube: Extreme Rides **11.00** The Inbetweeners **11.40** Drifters

Film4
3.05 The Last Mimzy (2007) **4.55** Gallipoli (1981) **7.05** The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) **9.00** Knight and Day (2010) **11.10** Crazy Heart (2009)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY
Training Day, ITV, 11.10pm
A cop embarks on his first day in narcotics, partnering a seasoned officer whose willingness to flout the rules forces him to question everything he has learnt. As they resort to extreme measures to crack a case, the rookie is left battling his conscience in a dangerous situation. Thriller, starring Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke, Scott Glenn and Tom Berenger. (2001)

TUESDAY
The American President, ITV, 11.35pm
The US president embarks on a relationship with an environmental lobbyist – but his delighted opponents jump at the chance to drag the pair through the gutter press, putting their romance and his career in jeopardy. Rob Reiner's political comedy, starring Michael Douglas, Annette Bening, Martin Sheen, Richard Dreyfuss and Michael J Fox. Written by Aaron Sorkin, who would later return to the White House as creator of The West Wing. (1995)

Training Day, Monday, ITV, 11.10pm

WEDNESDAY
Snatch, Channel 5, 10pm
An unlicensed boxing promoter and his dim-witted sidekick convince an Irish gypsy to step in for their injured fighter, but find themselves drawn into a match-fixing racket. Meanwhile, the loot from a diamond heist goes missing, leading to a bloody conflict between Russian gangsters and a Jewish mob. Guy Ritchie's comedy drama, with Jason Statham, Brad Pitt, Benicio Del Toro, Mike Reid, Jason Flemyng, Alan Ford and Vinnie Jones. (2000)

THURSDAY
Three Wise Women, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A successful doctor is preparing to get married, but does not realise she is settling for the wrong man. At Christmas, she receives a visit from her guardian angel, who tries to stop her making a terrible mistake – with the aid of the medic's younger selves. Fantasy, starring Amy Huberman and Fionnula Flanagan. (2010)

FRIDAY
The Grudge 2, ITV, 11.10pm
After barely surviving a fire that burned a cursed Tokyo house to the ground, Karen Davis is recovering in hospital. Karen's sister Aubrey travels to Japan to bring her home, but her investigation into the suspicious events leading up to her sibling's injury sets Aubrey on a frantic mission to prevent menacing supernatural beings from reaching the US. Horror sequel, with Amber Tamblyn, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Edison Chen and Arielle Kebbel. (2006)

Pick of the Week

Robbie swings back into the nation's hearts

Many Robbie Williams fans have their favourite standout gig, whether it's his 2001 Royal Albert Hall show, in which he belted out classic Swing When You're Winning tracks, or the 2003 Knebworth show, captured on the DVD What We Did Last Summer.

Obviously there's been a lot of water under the bridge since then, with his contribution to Take That's superb Progress tour, and his more recent solo work.

For many, his take on Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr's classics was a career highlight 12 years ago, and on November 8 there was a sense that things had come full circle.

Of course not everyone was able to get to the London Palladium to witness his latest evening of swing music, so Robbie Williams One Night at the Palladium is a chance to see what you missed.

Performing tracks from new album Swings Both Ways, he is joined by special guests Lily Allen and Rufus Wainwright and Muppets Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy.

"Moi is always thrilled to perform at the Palladium, no matter who I have to share the stage with," remarked the porcine superstar. "But being up there with moi's dear friend Robbie Williams and Kermie will make this night even more spectacular!"

Well, quite.

Williams has suffered many highs and lows since he last belted out a load of swing classics for a paying audience.

In 2002, his mammoth £80million contract with EMI was one of the biggest music deals in history.

The album Escapology, co-penned with Guy Chambers, included a couple of crackers in Come Undone and Feel. Both peaked at number four in the UK charts, while the album itself was a huge hit worldwide, topping the charts in more than a dozen countries, including here.

His 2005 album Intensive Care was also a global smash, but a year later many fans were disappointed with his follow-up, Rudebox.

Despite impressive production from the likes of Mark Ronson and the Pet Shop Boys, it looked like Robbie pre-empted his fate and 'came undone'.

By 2009 he scraped back some credibility with the album Reality Killed the Video Star, a project boosted by the work of super producer Trevor Horn.

Admittedly the track Morning Sun struggled in the UK charts, but Bodies was much stronger, hitting number 2.

In 2010, his long-awaited reunion with Take That saw Williams back on form, both on the album Progress, and their stunning tour, which left each of the five band members a reported £7million better off.

Having healed a much-publicised rift with Gary Barlow, their duet Shame won over Take That fans, while Barlow-penned 2012 track Candy saw Robbie back at the top of the charts for the first time since 2004's Radio.

Now, with old mate Guy Chambers back on board as songwriter, it looks like the 39-year-old has bounced back from the brink once more.

So, if this new century keeps bringing you down, settle back and enjoy as one of Blighty's greatest showmen works his magic once more.

Robbie Williams One Night at the Palladium, Friday, BBC1, 8pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
A Great British Christmas with Sarah Beeny
Channel 4, 8pm
Should Kirstie Allsopp be feeling worried? For the past couple of years, she's normally cropped up on Channel 4 in December with her own festive special. But this year, she's been gazumped by fellow property expert Sarah Beeny, who is getting in first with her own one-off Christmas documentary. Sarah, her artist husband Graham Swift and their four children are exploring how festive celebrations have changed over the past 200 years. They are particularly keen to discover how previous generations would have marked the season in their stately home, Rise Hall in East Yorkshire, which the clan have spent 10 years restoring. However, they'll also be looking further afield for yuletide rituals, as they learn more about the historical context of everything from garlands to cards.

Ripper Street
BBC1, 9pm
Poor Drake. His work life is beset by violence and the sight of grisly deaths – and now it seems he won't be getting much comfort in his home life. Since Ripper Street returned to our screens, Drake has been happily married to Bella – but a blast from her past is about to turn their world upside down. Meanwhile, Reid asks Jewish mathematician Isaac Bloom for help when it becomes clear that somebody is trying to upset the fragile peace among Whitechapel's diverse communities by burning the local churches and synagogues to the ground. Reid has dealt with many weird occurrences during his police career, but what Bloom tells him about these attacks would shock even the most hard-bitten and hard-hearted detective...

TUESDAY
Pilgrimage with Simon Reeve
BBC2, 9pm
Having navigated the Equator and the Indian Ocean, surely it was time for Simon Reeve to explore somewhere closer to home. The affable presenter does just that in his new series, which sees him retracing the adventures of our ancestors. The series commences with Reeve embarking on a 500-mile journey from Lindisfarne to Canterbury. From there, he travels to Lincoln and London, where he joins up with Chaucer fans for the last leg, made famous by the Canterbury Tales. Along the way, Reeve uncovers the real reason that many medieval peasants undertook pilgrimages: it was an excuse to leave their working lives behind and see the country – something most of us can appreciate today.

WEDNESDAY
28 Up South Africa
ITV, 10.35pm
Over the years – and there have been quite a few of them – the Up series has made for sensational viewing and been massively influential. Ever since 1964, the documentary, originally a social study, has returned every seven years to focus on a varied group of people. It has been a huge hit with audiences. Tonight, we're updated on the personal journeys of a group of young people born in South Africa during the apartheid era. The country in the meantime has become fully integrated, and those same children are now 28. We're about to hear how new opportunities have opened up for them as they've journeyed through their 20s, and how they now lead very different lives. Among them, Lizette says her coal-mining town is the worst place on Earth, while Olwethu discusses her marriage, and Willem talks sport now that he's a rugby union international for the Springboks.

28 Up South Africa, Wednesday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY
Keeping Britain Safe 24/7
BBC1, 8.30pm
Most of us go through life without giving much of a second thought to what barriers stand between us and catastrophe at any given moment. This documentary pays tribute to the unsung individuals who keep those barriers in place, through their tireless work – be they the firefighters kept busy on Bonfire Night or the midwives dealing with an autumnal baby boom. Julia Bradbury and Matt Allwright are the presenters championing their causes, and they also turn the spotlight on railway workers that keep the country moving in the face of those dreaded leaves on the line.

FRIDAY
Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom
BBC2, 9pm
It's safe to say, we're a little bit jealous of wildlife filmmakers Gordon Buchanan and Justine Evans, who are currently enjoying exploring deep into the little-known jungle wilderness of Burma. Still, it might not be quite the same thing, but at least we get to follow them every step of the way with this series. In the second instalment, Gordon and Justine make their way into the mountains of western Burma in search of the sun bear, the Asian golden cat and the clouded leopard. Meanwhile, zoologist Ross Piper and his team continue their mission to form a wildlife survey in the hope that they'll eventually present it to the government of Burma, and undercover filming in a border town leads them to a shocking discovery.

Live at the Apollo
BBC1, 9.30pm
It's not like 8 Out of 10 Cats star Sean Lock struggles as a comedian, but if the punchlines ever did dry up he could have a career as an impressionist – at least he does if this edition of the stand-up show is anything to go by, which sees him adopt an eerily convincing Bruce Forsythe and a suitably over-the-top Bruno Tonioli. That's before showing off his compering skills by introducing sets by grumpy stand-up Romesh Ranganathan and actor and funnyman Marcus Brigstocke (who proves he actually has a pretty good Columbo up his sleeve).

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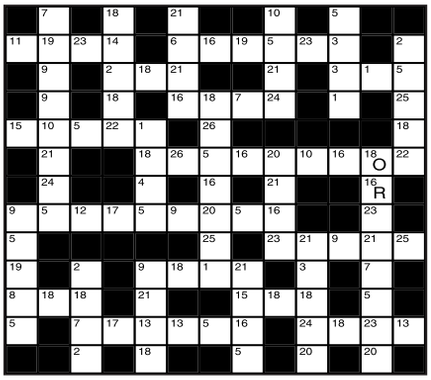
Brain Gym

No.249

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



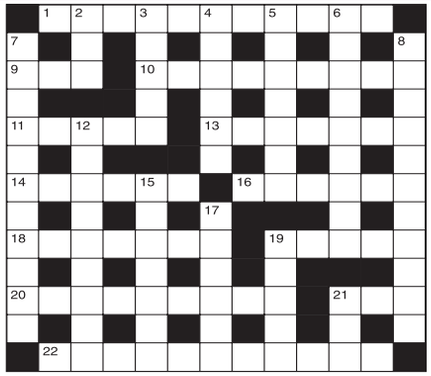
1	14
2	15
3	16 R
4	17
5	18 O
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 M	2 G	3 V	4 Y	5 H	6 J	7 W	8 C	9 L	10 B	11 K	12 E	13 A
14 T	15 I	16 X	17 U	18 Z	19 Q	20 O	21 S	22 P	23 R	24 N	25 D	26 F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Natural tendency for the allocation of one's property (11)
9. This makes revolutionary processes easier (3)
10. Hurried back to restrict food supplies - that's the story (9)
11. To cause aversion, make somebody retire (5)
13. Disguised Belgian often seen in Calcutta (7)
14. Scandinavian article served in a dish (6)
16. From the prognosticator a clearly divine revelation (6)
18. Go in search of strong drink, we hear - it provides vegetable food (3-4)
19. The settlement will be to his advantage (5)
20. To bring in a busy worker is of considerable consequence (9)
21. Meadow showing endless foliage (3)
22. He puts the destination on the top covers (4-7)

Down

2 & 15 Dn. Describing the show with badly cast leading actors? (3-7)
3. A list of jurors from Nepal (5)
4. The writer needs a bed in the south-east (6)
5. Coach gives the terrain a different look (7)
6. Few will be involved in this kind of government (9)
7. This couldn't be expected from an enemy vessel! (11)
8. Opposed to a state set-up - make it a free land! (4-7)
12. Ananas - a conifer bearing fruit (9)
15. See 2 Down
17. Make good representative with a distinctive bearing (6)
19. Crowns that are monastically unlocked? (5)
21. Falsely state the position of the golf-ball (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Explorers (11)
9. Favourite (3)
10. Respectable (9)
11. Disagreeable (5)
13. Determine (7)
14. Carry to excess (6)
16. Have ambitions (6)
18. Performer (7)
19. Ate dinner (5)
20. Amuse (9)
21. Study (3)
22. Unceremonious (4,3,4)

Down

2. Suitable (3)
3. Robust (5)
4. Divulge (6)
5. Hates (7)
6. Uprising (9)
7. Dogmatic (11)
8. Eternal (5-6)
12. Watcher (9)
15. Merit (7)
17. Keep (6)
19. Dullard (5)
21. Type of lettuce (3)

Sudoku

	6				5			7
		2	8	3	6		9	
8		1		2			5	
1						3		
4			2		3		1	9
		5						8
	3	9		8		2		4
			5	7	9		3	
6						9		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	3	8	9	7	6	2	5	1
1	2	5	4	3	8	6	7	9
7	9	6	2	1	5	3	4	8
8	4	9	1	2	3	7	6	5
2	1	7	6	5	4	9	8	3
5	6	3	8	9	7	1	2	4
6	5	1	3	4	2	8	9	7
9	8	4	7	6	1	5	3	2
3	7	2	5	8	9	4	1	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Flag; 3 Priority; 9 Epigram; 10 Theta; 11 Boiled sweets; 13 Touchy; 15 Salami; 17 Point-to-point; 20 Drive; 21 Article; 22 Linesmen; 23 Ores. Down: 1 Fleabite; 2 Alibi; 4 Remiss; 5 On the warpath; 6 Inertia; 7 Year; 8 Free thinkers; 12 Listless; 14 Utopian; 16 Strafe; 18 Incur; 19 Idol. QUICK - Across: 1 Go by; 3 Prodigal; 9 Dismiss; 10 Surge; 11 Posthumously; 13 Endear; 15 Escape; 17 Contemptible; 20 Ocean; 21 Drought; 22 Steadier; 23 Stay. Down: 1 Godspeed; 2 Basis; 4 Resume; 5 Disquisition; 6 Gorilla; 7 Lees; 8 Disheartened; 12 Recently; 14 Diocese; 16 Smudge; 18 Bight; 19 Toss.

CP BIGWOOD

AUCTION

12th December 2013

At Holte Suite, Aston Villa Football Ground

93 lots to include:

231 Queslett Road, Great Barr

A Vacant Semi Detached Douse

Accommodation Comprises: Storm porch, reception room, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom/WC

Outside: Gardens and driveway

The property benefits from central heating and part double glazing but is in need of modernisation throughout

Guide: £49,000-£57,000

41 Brynmawr Road, Lanesfield, Wolverhampton

A Vacant Semi Detached House

Accommodation Comprises: Two reception rooms, kitchen, W/C, three bedrooms and shower room/WC

Outside: Gardens and driveway

The property benefits from central heating and majority double glazing.

Guide: £49,000- £54,000

13 Green Road, Dudley

A Vacant Semi Detached House

Accommodation Comprises: Porch, hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, store, three bedrooms, bathroom/WC

Outside: Gardens and side garage

The property benefits from central heating and majority double glazing.

Guide: £54,000- £59,000

31 Norton Crescent, Bilston, Wolverhampton

A Vacant End Terraced House

Accommodation Comprises: Hall, reception room, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom/WC

Outside: Gardens and driveway parking

The property benefits from central heating and majority double glazing.

Guide: £39,000- £44,000

106 Osprey Drive, Russells Hall, Dudley

A Vacant Semi Detached House

Accommodation Comprises: Reception room, hall with cloakroom, dining kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom/WC

Outside: Gardens, driveway parking and side garage

The property benefits from central heating and majority double glazing.

Guide: £54,000- £59,000

324 Deans Road, Wolverhampton

A Vacant Semi Detached House

Accommodation Comprises: Porch, hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, inner lobby, wet room/WC and three bedrooms

Outside: Gardens and driveway parking

The property benefits from central heating and majority double glazing

Guide: £39,000-£44,000

31 Wallace Road, Bilston

A Vacant Semi Detached House

Accommodation Comprises: Porch, hall, through reception, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom/WC

Outside: Gardens and driveway parking

The property benefits from central heating and majority double glazing.

Guide: £44,000- £49,000

22 Ash Road, Dudley

A Vacant Semi Detached House Occupying a Large Corner Plot

Accommodation Comprises:- Porch, hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom/WC with shower

Outside: Gardens and driveway parking

The property benefits from part double glazing but s in need of modernisation

Guide: £50,000 plus

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There are four bedrooms, the master having a luxury en suite, spacious family bathroom with superior suite and a detached double width garage. A gated and paved rear courtyard has additional parking and there are picturesque views overlooking mature landscaped gardens.

Perton Court Cottage is priced £575,000 and is available via Thomas Harvey.

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CP BIGWOOD

AUCTION

12th December 2013

At Holte Suite, Aston Villa Football Ground

93 lots to Include Properties On Behalf Of:

Birmingham City Council · Wolverhampton City Council · Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service · Canal & River Trust

Order of Sale

Lot 1	Former Toilets Washwood Heath Road, Washwood Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 2	2 Hamstead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 3	Land Adj. 2 Berners Street, Lozells, Birmingham	Land
Lot 4	Land Adj. 155 Wellington Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Land
Lot 5	Land at junction of Witton Lane & Holte Road, Aston, Birmingham	Land
Lot 6	127 Gravelly Hill North, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 7	6 Nevin Grove, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 8	27 Elmwood Gardens, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 9	33 Kenelm Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 10	17-19 Gordon Road, off Heathfield Road, Lozells, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 11	45 Chelmarsh Avenue, Castle Croft, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 12	25-35 Park Avenue, Hockley, Birmingham	Ground Rents
Lot 13	Sandiacre, Nottingham, Nottinghamshirev	Ground Rents
Lot 14	81 Falmouth Road, Buckland End, Birmingham	Ground Rent
Lot 15	94 Merrivale Road, Smethwick, Birmingham	Ground Rent
Lot 16	16 Salisbury Road, Washwood Heath, Birmingham	Ground Rent
Lot 17	1-4 Jackson Close, Church Road, Norton Caines	Ground Rents
Lot 18	Moseley Court, Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham	Ground Rents
Lot 19	61 Abbey Road, Great Malvern, Worcestershire	Development/Redevelopment Opportunity
Lot 20	136 Middlemore Industrial Estate, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 21	Halifax House, 14-15 Frederick Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 22	40 New Road, Solihull, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 23	915 Alum Rock Road, Alum Rock, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 24	231 Queslett Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 25	324 Deans Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 26	90 Whitegates Road, Coseley	Residential Vacant
Lot 27	41 Arthur Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 28	42 Woodbridge Road, Moseley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 29	513 City Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 30	Former Coroner's Office, Crocketts Lane & High Street, Smethwick, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 31	41 Brynmawr Road, Lanesfield, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 32	53 Holifast Road, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield	Residential Vacant
Lot 32a	1 Gough Avenue, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacan
Lot 33	The Nesbitt Arms, Churchill Way, Stafford	Commercial Vacant
Lot 34	5 Elm Court, Meriden Business Park, Copse Drive, Meriden	Commercial Investment
Lot 35	13 Green Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 36	31 Norton Crescent, Bilston	Residential Vacant
Lot 37	31 Wallace Road, Bilston	Residential Vacant
Lot 38	26 Florence Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 39	The Red Lion, Billington Lane, Derrington, Stafford	Commercial Vacant
Lot 40	3 Hardon Road, Wolverhampton	Residential Investment
Lot 41	52A Thompson Avenue, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 42	8-12 Cannon Hill Road, Basall Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 43	182 Kingsley Avenue, Kettering, Northamptonshire	Commercial Vacant
Lot 44	89 Highfield Road, Saltley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 45	10 Crown Lofts, Marsh Street, Walsall	Residential Vacant
Lot 46	42 Salisbury Road, Washwood Heath, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 47	64-65 Lodgefield Road, Halesowen, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 48	21 Hampton Court Road, Harborne, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 48A	135 Kent Road, Wednesbury	Residential Vacant
Lot 49	158 High Street, Brierley Hill	Commercial Vacant
Lot 50	5 Dovedale Avenue, Willenhall	Residential Vacant
Lot 51	10 Hunton Court, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 52	32 Green Court, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 53	22 Ash Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 54	221 Park Road, Hockley, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 55	Unit 2 Pikehelve Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Commercial Vacant
Lot 56	Land Adj. 94 Grange Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Land
Lot 57	Rubery Market R/o 168-210 New Road, Rubery	Commercial Investment
Lot 58	53 Bowen Court, Wake Green Park, Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 59	106 Osprey Drive, Russells Hall, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 60	94-95 Brasshouse Lane, Smethwick, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 61	233 High Street, Erdington, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 62	15 Mary Vale Road, Bournville, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 63	Land at Hospital Lane (R/o 59B Mason Street), Coseley	Land
Lot 64	1 Lower High Street, Cradley Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Investment
Lot 65	448 Birchfield Road, Birmingham	Commercial/Residential Investment
Lot 66	280 Pershore Road South, Kings Norton, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant/ Development Opportunity
Lot 67	15 Hallam Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Investment
Lot 68	38 Nicholls Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Investment
Lot 69	8A Oaktree Lane, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Commercial Investment
Lot 70	Storage Land, Leys Road Industrial Estate, Leys Road, Brierley Hill	Commercial Vacant
Lot 71	1 Corner of Moor Street & Albion Street, Brierley Hill	Commercial Investment
Lot 72	3 Worcester Parade, Gloucester	Residential Vacant
Lot 73	13 Little Quillet Court, Manor Avenue, Cam, Gloucestershire	Residential Vacant
Lot 74	73 Ardav Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 75	Former Fire Station, Barrett Street, Smethwick, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant/Development Opportunity
Lot 76	70-71 Windmill Lane, Smethwick, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 77	106 Westminster Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 78	15-17 Idmiston Croft, Druids Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 79	Land 7 bcj Portway Hill, Tividale, Oldbury	Land
Lot 80	23 Holder Road, Yardley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 81	29 Holder Road, Yardley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 82	43 Perrywood Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 83	Bungalow R/o 107 Edward Street, Cannock	Residential Vacant
Lot 84	24 Holloway Street, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 85	15 Brett Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 86	28 Gracemere Crescent, Hall Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 87	284 Tat Bank Road, Oldbury	Residential Vacant
Lot 88	22 Netheravon Close, Druids Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 89	87 Winchester Drive, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 90	22 Bickton Close, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 91	27 Larches Lane, Wolverhampton — SOLD PRIOR	Residential Vacant

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Property

Generously proportioned four-bedroomed house

ON A prominent corner position, this substantial detached family home in Burton Road, Upper Gornal, Dudley has versatile accommodation including four bedrooms and a possible business premises.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents priced £179,950.

One mile from Sedgley centre, it has been recently improved and is well maintained having gas central heating and double glazing, it has an entrance hall, sitting room, lounge, spacious bathroom, inner hall, lower level kitchen, dining area and utility.

There are also four first floor bedrooms, a spacious briquette driveway area with plenty of space for parking vehicles including a boat/caravan and a lawned area to the rear.

The sitting room has floor tiling as does the lounge which also has feature fireplace.

The kitchen, dining area and utility all have ceramic tiled flooring and bedrooms one and four have built in wardrobes with mirror fronted doors.

For further information contact Skitts Estate Agents on 01902 596104 or visit www.skitts.net

Rural semi with views of surrounding countryside

NUMBER 7 Morfe Hall Lane, Enville, near Stourbridge, is a wonderful four-bedroomed home with stunning countryside views and a detached studio.

Well placed for commuting and ideal for lovers of the outdoors with the Enville Golf Club and walks nearby, it is for sale through The Lee, Shaw Partnership priced at £289,500.

It has a reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, shower room, four first floor bedrooms and a rest room with a WC and vanity wash-basin, gravel driveway, garden plus the studio in the garden.

The reception hall has a large store room and the lounge has a brick recessed fireplace with soft close cream units in the kitchen, solid oak worktops, a Belfast sink, range-style oven, microwave and wine cooler.

The seating area has French doors to the rear garden giving stunning views and the shower room is stylish having a large cubicle and ladder radiator.

Upstairs, bedroom one has wardrobes and bedroom three has an integrated high bed base with storage below.

For further information contact The Lee, Shaw Partnership on 01384 396066 or visit the website at www.leeshaw.com

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KINGSWINFORD

LARCH ROAD
£375 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Unfurnished

AMBLECOTE

KING WILLIAM STREET
£550 pcm*
Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

KINGSWINFORD

GREENFIELDS ROAD
£650 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

GORNAL

EVE LANE
£620 pcm*
Semi Detached Proeprty, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage

DUDLEY

BOURNE STREET
£395 pcm*
Modern Apartment
Lounge ● Kitchen
Two Bedrooms ● Bathroom
Economy Seven Heating
Allocated Parking ● Unfurnished
Communal Gardens

KINGSWINFORD

SURREY DRIVE
£495 pcm*
Modern Flat, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Maintained Gardens

COSELEY

SALCOMBE GROVE
£545 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

KINGSWINFORD

FAIRLAWN DRIVE
£610 pcm*
Semi Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

WALL HEATH

HIGH STREET
£575 pcm*
Modern End Terrace, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking

KINGSWINFORD

BEECH ROAD
£550 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Newly Decorated, New Flooring, Available Immediately.

DUDLEY

MARMION GROVE
£525 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

BRIERLEY HILL

DADFORD VIEW
£425 pcm*
Cluster Style Property. Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating

PENSNETT

SWAN STREET
£575 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking for 2 cars, Unfurnished

GORNAL

HARVEST CLOSE
£560 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking

PENSNETT

HIGH STREET
£410 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished

PENSNETT

KIRKHAM GARDENS
£515 pcm*
Mid Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished

PENSNETT

HEYDON ROAD
£595 pcm*
4 New Semi-Detached Houses, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Garden, Parking for 1/2 cars.

STOURBRIDGE

LICKEY ROAD
£675 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory, Study, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

BRIERLEY HILL

WILLIAM STREET
£550 pcm*
Terraced House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, · Double Glazing, Unfurnished

BRIERLEY HILL

WALLOWS ROAD
£540 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

WOODSETTON

SEDGLEY ROAD
£550 pcm*
Terraced Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Rear Garden

WOODSETTON

SHENLEY AVENUE
£625 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

KINGSWINFORD

HIGH VIEW DRIVE
£750 pcm*
Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage, Front & Rear Gardens

GREAT BRIDGE

EAGLE PLACE
£370 pcm*
Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Economy Seven Heating, Private Parking, Security Entrance Door

(*Administration/application fees will apply)

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Sedgley

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ESTATE AGENTS

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sedgley@skitts.net

NEW

BERKSWELL CLOSE
MILKING BANK

- An extremely impressive detached residence with four bedrooms
- Spacious reception hall Three reception rooms ● Dining kitchen
- Useful laundrette ● Downstairs cloaks ● Family bathroom
- Two ensuite shower rooms ● Private rear garden
- Must be viewed to be appreciated

Energy Rating: D

£275,000

NEW

MUSK LANE
GORNAL WOOD

- Detached family home in sought after location ● Three bedrooms
- Lounge ● Dining Area ● Full fitted kitchen ● Downstairs cloaks
- 17ft Garage ● Ample off road parking ● Central heating
- Double glazing ● No upward chain ● MUST BE SEEN Energy Rating: E

£195,000

NO CHAIN

BROWNSWALL ROAD
SEDGLEY

- Substantial semi-detached family residence with great potential
- Extended accommodation ● Four bedrooms ● Two reception rooms
- Lean to/stores room ● 22ft Master bedrooms ● 23ft Garage
- No upward chain ● Extremely popular location Energy Rating: D

£169,950

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on 01902 686868

REDUCED

HOMESTEAD CLOSE
UPPER GORNAL

- Spacious semi-detached property ● Two double bedrooms
- 16ft Living room ● Dining kitchen ● Stylish bathroom ● Central heating
- Double glazing ● Allocated parking ● Private rear garden
- MUST BE SEEN ● Ideal first time buy ● Energy Rating: C

Reduced to £114,500

REDUCED

OLD PARK ROAD
DUDLEY

- Semi-detached with three bedrooms ● Two reception rooms
- Kitchen plus veranda ● Heating, double glazing ● Off road parking
- Conveniently positioned ● Requiring some modernisation works
- INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY Energy Rating: G

Reduced to £100,000

REDUCED

EVE LANE
UPPER GORNAL

- Extremely well presented semi-detached family residence
- Three double bedrooms ● Two reception rooms ● Bathroom
- Ensuite shower room ● Useful study area ● Central heating
- Double glazing ● MUST BE SEEN Garage Energy Rating: D

Reduced to £141,995

REDUCED

PADARN CLOSE
NORTHWAY

- Surprisingly spacious mid town house with three bedrooms
- Extremely well presented family size home ● Lounge
- Stylish dining kitchen ● Downstairs cloaks ● Stylish bathroom
- Central heating ● Double glazing ● Allocated parking Energy Rating: C

Reduced to £120,000

REDUCED

ROPER WAY
WOODSETTON

- Townhouse property with two bedrooms ● Lounge ● Dining kitchen
- Wet room ● Central heating ● Double glazing ● Pleasant rear garden
- Off road parking for 2 vehicles ● No upward chain Energy Rating: C

Reduced to £114,950

REDUCED

SEDGLEY ROAD
WOODSETTON

- Substantial detached family home with three good size bedrooms
- Two reception rooms ● Luxury fitted kitchen ● Utility ● Bathroom
- Central heating ● Double glazing ● Low maintenance rear garden

Energy Rating: D

Reduced to £155,000

NORTHWAY
SEDGLEY

- An extremely stylish and spacious detached family home
- Five bedrooms ● Spacious 'L' shaped lounge diner plus dining room
- Fitted breakfast kitchen ● First floor bathroom, downstairs shower room
- Private rear garden with timber sun house and Jacuzzi Hot tub
- 27ft Garage ● Viewing recommended Energy Rating: D

Reduced to £234,950

FELLOWS AVENUE
WALL HEATH

- Semi-detached home with three bedrooms ● Two reception rooms
- Kitchen ● Central heating ● Double glazing ● Garage
- Off road parking ● Family size rear garden ● No upward chain
- Require some modernisation Energy Rating: D

£169,950

COLERIDGE RISE
THE STRAITS

- A delightful semi-detached family home with three bedrooms
- 23ft Lounge diner plus double glazed conservatory to the rear
- Fitted kitchen plus utility ● Downstairs cloaks ● Parking plus garage
- Central heating ● Double glazing Energy Rating: D

£169,950

EVE LANE
UPPER GORNAL

- Traditional semi-detached property ● Popular location
- Three bedrooms ● Lounge, dining kitchen ● First floor bathroom
- Central heating ● Double glazing ● Private rear garden
- Spacious and well maintained accommodation Energy Rating: D

£119,950

ELWELL CRESCENT
WOODSETTON

- Three bedroom end terraced ● Lounge, dining kitchen
- Downstairs WC ● First floor bathroom ● Central heating
- Off road parking ● Spacious accommodation ● Popular location
- Investment opportunity ● No upward chain Energy Rating: D

£75,000

NORTHWAY
SEDGLEY

- An immaculate dormer bungalow with three/four bedrooms
- Exceptional order throughout with spacious accommodation
- 'L' Shaped living room plus sitting room/playroom/possible bed 4
- Extremely impressive dining kitchen with integrated appliances
- Stylish family bathroom plus ensuite ● Garage Energy Rating: D

£195,000

RAINHAM CLOSE
FOXYARDS, TIPTON

- Spacious semi-detached home with three bedrooms
- VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED ● 21ft Lounge diner
- Office/study ● 16ft Breakfast kitchen ● Central heating
- Double glazing ● No upward chain Energy Rating: C

Reduced to £139,950

PLEASANT VIEW
LOWER GORNAL

- Surprisingly spacious semi-detached home ● Three bedrooms
- Living room plus dining area ● Fitted kitchen ● Upstairs bathroom
- Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
- Quiet position ● Private rear garden ● Energy Rating: D

Reduced to £99,950

WALLOWS WOOD
THE STRAITS

- Spacious semi-detached home well presented throughout
- Three bedrooms ● Lounge, dining room, office, kitchen, laundrette
- Stylish bathroom ● Low maintenance rear garden ● Central heating
- Double glazing ● Off road parking Energy Rating: D

£149,995

LABURNUM ROAD
KINGSWINFORD

- Modern ground floor flat ● Lounge, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom
- uPVC double glazing ● Heating ● Quiet position ● No upward chain
- Ideal first time buy or investment ● Interior viewing recommended

Energy Rating: D

Reduced to £68,000

HILL STREET
UPPER GORNAL

- Well presented ground floor flat ● Bedroom, lounge, kitchen
- Bathroom ● Central heating, double glazing ● Off road parking
- Viewing recommended ● Ideal first time buy Energy Rating: D

INTERIOR VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Reduced to £73,950

DUDLEY ROAD
SEDGLEY

- Spacious first floor flat with two double bedrooms ● Ideal first time buy
- 14ft x 14ft Lounge ● Kitchen ● Bathroom ● Heating
- Part double glazing ● Rear garden ● Communal parking
- Conveniently close to Sedgley centre Energy Rating: C

£75,000

BURTON ROAD
UPPER GORNAL

- Large detached family home over 3 levels ● Four bedrooms
- Lounge, sitting room, dining area ● Fitted kitchen ● Stylish bathroom
- Ample off road parking ● Central heating ● Double glazing
- Possible business premises ● No upward chain Energy Rating: E

£179,950

LOWESWATER DRIVE
LOWER GORNAL

- A delightful detached family residence with NO UPWARD CHAIN
- Four bedrooms ● Two reception rooms ● Two bathrooms
- Kitchen plus laundrette ● Downstairs WC ● Parking and garage
- Rear garden with fantastic views Energy Rating: C

£219,950

BOSWORTH CLOSE
WOODSETTON

- Detached family residence ● Extremely well presented throughout
- Four bedrooms ● 21ft Living room ● Ground floor cloaks room
- Central heating ● Double glazing ● Garage ● Off road parking
- Popular location ● VIEWING RECOMMENDED Energy Rating: D

£199,950

OPEN HOUSE - SAT 30th NOV 12-4 AND SUN 1st DEC 12-4

TUDOR ROAD
UPPER GORNAL

OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND

- Semi-detached home on corner position ● Three bedrooms
- Lounge ● Dining kitchen ● Downstairs cloaks ● Bathroom
- Central heating ● Front, side and rear gardens ● Parking for 2 vehicles
- Garage Energy Rating: D

INTERIOR VIEWING RECOMMENDED

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

£124,950

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PROPERTY AUCTION 3RD DECEMBER 2013

49 LICHFIELD ROAD, WEDNESFIELD

Well located Shop Unit and Living Accommodation. Main Shop, Staff Room, W.C.
Self-contained First Floor Three Bed Flat, Spacious recently fitted Kitchen and Bathroom, Balcony, Garage. EPC: Shop E, Flat G

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th NOVEMBER @ 9.30 a.m

Guide: £118,000 / £123,000

ADDERLEY LODGE, 220 PENN ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

An impressive double fronted detached Victorian Residence offering spacious Accommodation, fine Hall, W.C., Three Reception, large Kitchen, Utility, Pantry Sun Lounge, Cellar, Four Bedrooms, Two Bath/ Shower, Double Garage, large Work Shop, lovely grounds. EPC: F

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th NOVEMBER @ 11.30 a.m
PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO VEHICULAR ACCESS AT THE TIME OF VIEWING – PARK IN COALWAY AVENUE / COALWAY ROAD

Guide: £290,000 / £ 310,000

3 BEECHWOOD DRIVE, WIGHTWICK

Cul-de-sac position within prime residential location - a well proportioned Bungalow – would now benefit from upgrade – Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Study, Utility facility off, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, generous Loft space, Garage, lovely Rear Garden. EPC: F

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th NOVEMBER @ 12.30 p.m

Guide: £175,000 / £185,000

THE OLD POST OFFICE, 6 THE SQUARE, IRONBRIDGE

An impressive three-storey building with outlook to the world renowned Iron Bridge. Post Office Shop area, Cellar, Lounge, Dining Room, large Kitchen, Utility Four large Bedrooms and Bathroom. Self contained unit offering Sitting Room, Kitchen, Shower Room, Patio Garden. EPC: E

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th NOVEMBER @ 9.45 a.m.

Guide: £230,000 / £240,000

180 WOLVERHAMPTON STREET, BILSTON

Large spacious Victorian End Terrace, corner position, immaculately presented.Hall, Two Reception, Sun Lounge, newly fitted luxury Kitchen and BathroomTwo Double Bedrooms, Shower Room, spacious Loft area, large rear Garden. EPC: E

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th NOVEMBER @ 9.45 a.m

Guide: £80,000 / £95,000

6 WHARF STREET, HORSELEY FIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON

A large Semi, Foregarden, off-road Parking, Large Hall, W.C., Lounge, big Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas C.H. EPC: C

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th NOVEMBER @ 10.45 a.m

Guide: £78,000 / £83,000

11 PEAR TREE LANE, WEDNESFIELD

Conveniently located and accessible to shops and schools – a Detached House offering Porch, Hall, Through Lounge / Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, 70ft. Rear Garden. EPC: F

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th NOVEMBER @ 11.45 a.m

Guide: £110,000 / £115,000

44 GROSVENOR STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

A partially improved Semi, Three smart Bedrooms, excellent Loft space, New Bathroom and Kitchen, Lounge and extended Dining Room, Garage, Store, Rear Garden. EPC: E

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th NOVEMBER @ 11.45 a.m

Guide: £54,000 / £59,000

298 NEWHAMPTON ROAD WEST, WOLVERHAMPTON

Large Victorian House with big rooms. Hall, Two Reception, large Kitchen, Rear Hall, Shower Room, Three Bedrooms & Box Room, spacious Bathroom. Gated vehicular access and off-road Parking, generous grounds. Space to develop (STPP). EPC: D

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th NOVEMBER @ 10.30 a.m

Guide: £125,000 / £130,000

14 CLAYTON CLOSE, BLAKENHALL, WOLVERHAMPTON

Convenient cul-de-sac location, UPVC & CH., Foregarden
Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility area, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, long Rear Garden. EPC: E

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th NOVEMBER @ 12.45 a.m

Guide: £64,000 / £69,000

25 MILFORD ROAD, BLAKENHALL, WOLVERHAMPTON

Investment – Currently producing £5,400 p.a.x.Large Semi in good location, Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Laundry, Three Bedrooms, white Bathroom, long Garden. EPC: F

VIEWING: THURSDAY 28th NOVEMBER @ 2.00 p.m

Guide: £74,000 / £79,000

1 BROWN STREET, BLAKENHALL, WOLVERHAMPTON

Investment currently producing £7,020 pax
Well situated End Terraced, Two Reception, Kitchen, large Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, long garden. EPC: TBA

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th NOVEMBER @ 12.30 p.m

Guide: £75,000 / £80,000

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STOURBRIDGE	85 High Street	01384 395555

6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

QUARRY BANK

NEW

Coppice Lane

This modern style, extended, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED family home provides versatile living space, and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. The spacious property briefly comprises: Entrance Porch, Lounge, splendid re-fitted Kitchen with a fine range of units / integrated appliances, L-shaped Dining / Sitting Room, Guest WC, FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS (with En-Suite to Master), Re-fitted Bathroom with white suite, Garage, driveway and Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£219,950

NETHERTON

NEW

Bowling Green Road

This traditional style, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, THREE BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME provides versatile living space, and is situated in an established residential location. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Guest WC, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Garage, Driveway, and a lengthy Rear Garden. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£159,950

QUARRY BANK

NEW

Acres Road

Delightfully situated within this much respected address, this RATHER WELL ARRANGED, TRADITIONAL, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME should now require updating and modernisation yet displays great potential and is seen to briefly comprise: Porch, Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Rear Porch, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Fore garden, Drive, Garage and LARGE ESTABLISHED GARDEN. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating F. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£139,950

WOLVERHAMPTON

NEW

Farrington Road, Ettingshall Park

A tremendously EXTENDED, freehold, gas centrally heated uPVC double glazed semi detached for modernisation offering excellent potential. The accommodation includes porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, store, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, large bathroom, garage, gardens. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £134,950

PENSNETT

NEW

Redfly Lane

Occupying a corner plot, this considerably enlarged, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, THREE / FOUR BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED family home simply must be viewed to fully appreciate the size/standard of accommodation provided. The spacious property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, large Dining / Family Room, Office/ Playroom/potential Fourth Bedroom, Ground Floor Shower Room, Dining Kitchen, three First Floor Bedrooms, Bathroom with white corner suite, Driveway, and rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£129,950

LOWER GORNAL

NEW

Wealdstone Drive

A stylish exceptionally well presented and conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) & uPVC double glazed intermediate 'starter home' conveniently situated in favoured district. Accommodation provides glazed entrance vestibule. store, lounge, upgrade breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances, two double bedrooms, bathroom, neat gardens with TARMACADAM parking for two cars 'at the rear' . . EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £118,950

BROCKMOOR

NEW

Fox Foot Drive

This modern style, Double Glazed (vast majority of units), Gas Centrally Heated, TWO BEDROOM Semi- Detached Home is situated in a popular residential location, and may particularly appeal to FIRST TIME BUYERS. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen, TWO GOOD BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Driveway and Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£109,950

Pensnett

NEW

Chapel Street

A WELL PRESENTED 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE with DRIVE/PARKING, within a popular location, enjoying a private rear aspect, offering a GOOD SIZED layout, comprising: Reception Hall, spacious lounge, full width dining kitchen, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS, shower room and GAS CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM. DRIVEWAY to the fore and a landscaped rear garden with store. EPC Rating: E. KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777

£79,950

LOWER GORNAL

NEW

Fiveways Court

50% SHARE FOR SALE, a stylish, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed first floor flat with good distant views from the rear forming part of a gated development within reasonable walking distance of so many amenities & facilities. Vendor's share available for sale (other 50% owned by Housing Association who charge a fair market rental, 'entry phone' system to shared hallway/landing. The flat enjoys lofty ceiling heights and the accommodation includes lengthy reception hall, walk-in store, lounge (with double French doors), well equipped kitchen with a fine range of units, principal bedroom (with double opening french doors & a generous shower room en suite), further double bedroom & bathroom, shared grounds, allocated parking & further guest parking. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £52,000 for vendor's 50% share

Brierley Hill

NEW

Victoria Street

This ground floor, uPVC Double Glazed, ONE BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR FLAT would now benefit from a scheme of modernisation / improvement, yet offers excellent potential. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Porch, Living Room, Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Re-fitted Shower Room, Communal Grounds, and Garage in block to rear. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£42,950

LOWER GORNAL — Ladbrook Grove, Straits

An ENLARGED, imposing & tremendously enhanced, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached family residence in favoured/convenient neighbourhood. Superb accommodation includes large entrance hall (effective a second reception room), magnificent through lounge, outstanding enlarged & comprehensively refitted 23'4" dining kitchen with double french doors out to garden, an extensive range of units & many integrated appliances including a range. Gallery landing, three double bedrooms, stylish reappointed bathroom with white suite. Short garage. Tremendous expertly tended gardens. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £249,950

DUDLEY — Shipton Close,Milking Bank

A quite EXCEPTIONAL, meticulously maintained & comprehensively upgraded, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached upon appreciably wider than average plot in favoured cul de sac. Magnificent accommodation includes imposing 16'10" reception hall, reappointed cloakroom, elegant lounge, dining room (with patio doors), refitted kitchen with a range of 'light oak' effect units, laundry section (garage has been sub-divided to form play/sitting room & a further external store). Principal bedroom with wardrobes & reappointed shower room en suite, three further generous bedrooms (two with wardrobes), reappointed/re-tiled bathroom with white contemporary style suite, extensive parking, carport (& workshop area beyond) & delightful expertly tended/landscaped rear garden incorporating extensive slabbed patio. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £239,950

SEDGLEY

Royston Way

A distinctive, particularly SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated & majority uPVC double glazed detached bungalow imaginatively designed to take full advantage of individual secluded plot circa 2004. Tremendously improved & presented in exemplary order throughout, the elegant accommodation includes imposing reception hall, breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units & many integrated appliances, utility room, 22ft living/dining room, principal bedroom with fitted units & bathroom en suite, further double bedroom & a separate shower/cloakroom. Extensive landscaped gardens, ample parking & planning consent (now lapsed) for construction of double garage. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £239,950

Kingswinford — Cumberland Close

£2,000 REDUCTION

Occupying an excellent corner position within this very popular cul de sac, this THOUGHTFULLY ALTERED & IMPROVED MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers VERSATILE and GENEROUS accommodation, now including a POTENTIAL GROUND FLOOR BEDROOM with WET ROOM off and comprising: Reception Hall, ground floor W.C, Lounge, large Sitting Room / Office, delightful Conservatory Extension, separate Dining Room, fitted kitchen, ground floor Wet Room, THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With attractive fore garden, DRIVEWAY + PAVED FOURCOURT with POTENTIAL CARPORT / SIDE SHELTER and a beautifully laid out rear garden with three useful sheds (all with power). EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£214,950

WOLVERHAMPTON

Wolverhampton Road East

An EXTREMELY SPACIOUS & highly individual, freehold, gas centrally heated, mostly uPVC double glazed DETACHED HOUSE designed to take maximum advantage of individual sloping site. Accommodation includes imposing 19ft reception hall, fitted cloakroom, breakfast kitchen, dining room, lounge, third bedroom with steps down to the lower ground floor having a hallway, two generous double bedrooms, bathroom & store, secluded rear garden with gated service driveway at rear giving access to extensive slabbed parking & TWO SINGLE BRICK GARAGES. Internal inspection vital to appreciate potential. EPC: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £189,950

Pensnett — Woodfield Avenue

4 BEDROOMS

Occupying an excellent corner position with GENEROUS, LEVEL, BEAUTIFULLY LAID OUT REAR GARDENS, this SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED, TRADITIONAL, FOUR BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE requires updating but offers EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS accommodation with FANTASTIC POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT, comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, spacious lounge, dining room area, study, fitted kitchen, cloakroom, ground floor W.C., FOUR EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS, bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Enjoying a superb cul de sac setting, with DRIVEWAY to fore and a DETACHED TANDEM GARAGE. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£174,950

BEARWOOD 129 Poplar Road 0121 434 4345
HALESOWEN 21 Hagley Road 0121 550 3978
SEDGLEY 2A Dudley Street 01902 880888

Taylors
www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

DUDLEY

Dibdale Road West

A meticulously maintained, tremendously enhanced, freehold, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated Kendrick built double fronted detached in favoured/now well established neighbourhood. Superb accommodation includes L-shape reception hall, store, fitted cloakroom with white suite, upgraded through dining kitchen with a fine range of 'light beech' effect units, various integrated appliances & double french doors out to the garden. Through living room with patio doors through to a magnificent uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY (13' x 12'4"), three bedrooms (principal bedroom with recently reappointed shower room en suite), bathroom, lengthy driveway, substantial brick garage, delightful secluded rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £185,950

COSELEY

Huntsman Close

An absolutely outstanding, exceptionally well appointed & meticulously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated, & uPVC double glazed detached family home occupying a fine corner plot in favoured "backwater" within walking distance of so many amenities. The elegant accommodation comprises reception hall, reappointed/refitted cloaks/ shower room, 17'6" through living room with patio doors & an "American walnut" feature overmantel, spacious dining kitchen with a fine range of units. Three generous bedrooms (principal bedroom with reappointed shower room en suite), and a third bedroom with fitted wardrobes/cupboards), reappointed bathroom with a white suite. Lengthy driveway with brick garage, and sheltered landscaped garden. . EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £173,950

Wordsley

Marshall Crescent

Enjoying a superb cul-de-sac setting and forming part of this stylish new development, this DISTINCTIVELY STYLED AND MOST DECEPTIVE, MODERN FAMILY TOWNHOUSE affords EXTREMELY WELL PROPORTIONED and BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED accommodation which is READY TO MOVE INTO and comprising: Reception Hall, impressively spacious Lounge/Diner, stylishly appointed Breakfast Kitchen with range of built-in appliances, THREE LARGE BEDROOMS (Master with EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM), classic white House Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Enjoying OFF-ROAD CAR PARKING to the rear, together with a LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating - B. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£169,995

Wall Heath

New Dudley Road

Forming part of this highly sought after address, with pleasant front views towards ATTRACTIVE WOODED GREEN, this SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, TRADITIIONAL 'BAY FRONTED' SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME is enhanced by an ATTRACTIVE 'SOUTH FACING' REAR GARDEN and offers ENLARGED and ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED accommodation, comprising: Reception Hall, extended large Lounge, separate formal Dining Room, refitted Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, refitted 'classic white' Bathroom with separate shower; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Set back beyond a GOOD SIZED DRIVEWAY to the fore which provides ample off-road parking for several vehicles and having a GARAGE / STORE to the rear (accessed via Dudley Road). EPC Rating - E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£169,950

LOWER GORNAL

Milton Crescent, Straits

An attractive, significantly modernised, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached in favoured neighbourhood comprising enlarged porch, reception hall, lounge with 'living flame' gas fire, understairs store, kitchen, dining room, three bedrooms (two with an extensive range of wardrobes/cupboards), upgraded/ re-tiled bathroom with white 'Heritage' suite, LARGE GARAGE (26'1" x 8'3") with utility room & further large store (former garage) beyond. Delightful, expertly tended rear garden, block paved driveway. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £157,950

WOODSETTON

Brook Street

An exceptionally well appointed & extremely stylish, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been the subject of comprehensive expenditure in recent months 'transforming' the property to a stunning specification. Accommodation provides enlarged double glazed entrance porch, reception hall, lounge with elegant 'limestone effect' fireplace with 'living flame' gas fire, magnificent transverse 19ft 'hub of the house' breakfast kitchen with 'country cream' finish units & extensive granite work surfaces, many integrated appliances, pantry & a uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY beyond. Three bedrooms (two with recently fitted units), reappointed with white traditional style suite (with 'slipper' bath),Boarded Loft, brick garage, block paved gardens to ensure low maintenance. STAMP DUTY PAID. EPC Rating:E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £159,950, NOW £155,000

Himley / The Limes

A MOST IMPRESSIVE AND EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE GROUND FLOOR LUXURY APARTMENT which forms part of this purpose built development for those of 55 years and over, set within BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED GARDENS AND GROUNDS within the "semi rural" Himley village, and still within reach of surrounding shops/ amenities, offering an IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS and BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED layout of accommodation which is entered via a secure main entrance, comprising: entrance hall, large 18'+ reception hall, superb 25'+ lounge with dining room area, feature fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, both with built in wardrobes and master with en suite shower room, main bathroom, GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. TWO ALLOCATED CAR PARKING SPACES. EPC Rating B. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Offers in the Region Of £154,950

DUDLEY

The Shrubbery

An exceptionally stylish & comparatively spacious, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed FORMER SHOWHOME presented in exemplary order throughout with enhanced specification. Accommodation provides entrance vestibule, imposing reception hall, cloaks cupboard, utility room, bedroom 3, shower room & an integral garage (NB: used as showhome office with dry lined/plaster skimmed walls, additional sockets, strip lights & telephone points - further potential). To the first floor is a large 18'8" max living/dining room & a well equipped L-shape 'hub of the house' breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'light beech' effect units & many integrated appliances. To the second floor, principal bedroom 1 with wardrobe & bathroom en suite & double bedroom 2 with wardrobe & shower room en suite. Secluded rear garden, two car parking to front. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

DUDLEY

The Broadway

A SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, gas centrally heated & primarily uPVC double glazed traditional semi detached of character with LARGE CONTRACTOR'S GARAGE in popular/convenient neighbourhood. Impressive accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, pantry, dining room with bay & double doors through to a rear lounge, extended 17'7" overall breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units, inner lobby, fitted cloakroom & further family/playroom (or even 'occasional bedroom'). Three generous bedrooms (two with wardrobes), reappointed bathroom with white suite & a large garage (17'10" plus recess x 12'8" max), garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

COSELEY

Birmingham New Road

A COMPREHENSIVELY REFURBISHED, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & uPVC double glazed semi detached of character that has been tremendously modernised & upgraded in recent months to an exemplary specification. Accommodation provides glazed porch, imposing reception hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge with bay, dining room with bay, refitted kitchen, three generous bedrooms, reappointed bathroom, garage & further store. Block paved driveway/ parking to front, neat rear garden with further brick store. Mining search available. EPC Rating:C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

COSELEY

Mount Pleasant Street

A particularly SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated & double glazed Edwardian semi detached of character that has been lovingly restored/ renovated by present vendors over the years. Elegant accommodation includes entrance vestibule, imposing reception hall (lofty ceiling heights), inner hallway, store & fitted cloakroom, lounge with 'living flame' fireplace, dining room, upgraded breakfast kitchen, practical cellar (used as workroom). Three bedrooms, enlarged bathroom. Traditional loft (with potential. Delightful secluded level rear garden with gated PARKING/GARAGE SPACE. EPC Rating: E SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £147,950

Dudley

Oakham Road

This most deceptive, exceptionally stylish, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, Double Fronted, Four Bedroom Cottage style Terrace has been considerably improved / updated by the present owners, and internal inspection is strongly recommended to fully appreciate this beautiful home. The impressive property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall/Sitting Room, Lounge, Dining Room, Dining Kitchen, Guest WC, useful Cellar, FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS, Bathroom with white suite, and a pleasant Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£144,950

COSELEY

Chad Road, Bramford Estate

An absolutely outstanding, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated (new combi boiler) semi detached that has been 'transformed' by present vendors in recent months to an exemplary specification. Accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, delightful lounge with bay, pantry, separate dining room, refitted kitchen. Three generous bedrooms (two with wardrobes), upgraded bathroom, garage, neat garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £134,950

SEDGLEY

Lomond Road, Northway

An exceptionally stylish, tremendously upgraded & improved, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed end 'starter home' in quiet 'backwater' convenient for so many amenities. Personal inspection vital to appreciate quality of the accommodation which includes uPVC double glazed entrance porch, 18ft reception hall, utility room, storage cupboards, lounge with box bay, dining room (with patio doors to garden) & refitted kitchen with superb range of 'beech' effect units with integrated oven, hob & extractor. Three generous bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with a fine range of 'cherrywood' effect fitted units to contemporary white suite/shower. Secluded well tended rear garden with extensive decking. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £125,000

LOWER GORNAL

Elan Close

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A stylish, exceptionally well presented, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed SEMI DETACHED with potential GARAGE SPACE (7'8" DRIVEWAY WIDTH) set in short cul de sac convenient for so many amenities. Superb accommodation includes 18ft reception hall, reappointed cloakroom with white suite, lounge, dining room, various storage cupboards, refitted kitchen with 'light oak' effect units, three bedrooms, bathroom, delightful garden with side driveway. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £109,950

LOWER GORNAL

Central Drive

A conscientiously maintained, modernised & significantly improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed end 'starter home' in established district with good distant views. Accommodation includes reception hall, lounge with bay, dining room, upgraded kitchen with various appliances, THREE BEDROOMS, reappointed/re-tiled bathroom with white suite, gardens. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £104,950

DUDLEY

Limes Road

Situated in a quiet cul de sac just off Limes Road, this traditional uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated semi detached is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN & may especially appeal to first time buyers. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms, first floor w.c., driveway & a low maintenance rear garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £99,950

QUARRY BANK

Mount Pleasant

This Victorian style, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, TWO BEDROOM home is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and may be of particular interest to FIRST TIME BUYERS. The well presented property briefly comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Two First Floor Double Bedrooms, Rear Courtyard Garden with potential Off Road Parking (Subject to Relevant Planning). EPC Rating F. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£79,950

Brierley Hill

Cooper Avenue

This traditional style, majority uPVC Double Glazed, TWO BEDROOM Semi Detached property would now ideally benefit from cosmetic improvement / upgrading, yet offers EXCELLENT POTENTIAL. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Good Bedrooms, Bathroom and Rear Garden. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£74,950

Ombudsman www.oea.co.uk

SWINSCOES

Sedgley
01902 672274
sales@swinscoes.co.uk

SEDGLEY

Gospel End Road
* An excellent size DETACHED home
* Sought after Gospel End address
* Walking distance to Sedgley village
* Flexible living space
* Open plan and recently fitted kitchen * Utility room, play room/sitting room
* FOUR bedrooms, two en-suites
* Driveway parking for several cars
* Part garage and private rear garden
* This is an ideal family home
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £260,950

SWINDON

Swinforge Way
* Four bed detached, village location
* Delightful canal side setting
* Lounge * Dining room
* Breakfast kitchen
* Upvc double glazed windows
* Gas central heating
* Garage, driveway parking
* PART EX CONSIDERED
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £240,000

SEDGLEY

Tipton Road
* An excellent size family home
* In walking distance to Sedgley
* Lounge & dining room
* Good size kitchen
* FOUR bedrooms
* Family size rear garden
* Garage & off road parking
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £238,950

COSELEY

Summerhill Road
* A DETACHED bungalow
* Enhanced and upgraded throughout
* Breakfast Kitchen * Large Conservatory
* Lounge & Dining Room
* One bedrooms (can be converted back into a two bedroom)
* Delightful & Landscaped gardens
* Secure parking through electronic gates
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £225,950

SEDGLEY

Ettymore Road
* A most impressive detached residence.
* In walking distance to Sedgley Village
* Spacious accommodation
* Two reception rooms
* Breakfast kitchen
* Four double bedrooms
* No Upward Chain
* Viewing essential
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £219,950

LOWER GORNAL

Ruskin Avenue
* A Spacious Detached Bungalow
* Positioned on a substantial plot
* Extended to the side
* Lounge & Dining Room/Sitting Room
* Two Double Bedrooms
* Bathroom & Separate w.c.
* Garage & Rear Garden
* Off Road parking to the front
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £195,000

COSELEY

Bridgewater Drive
* A FOUR bedroom detached
* Extended & enhanced
* Dining & breakfast kitchen
* Contemporary bathroom
* Utility room & guest w.c.
* Garage & off road parking
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £186,950

COSELEY

Clifton Street
* A traditional DETACHED home
* Open plan lounge/dining room
* Modern Kitchen
* Three good size bedrooms
* An excellent size bathroom
* Rear gardens & garage
* Off road parking for 2/3 cars
* An ideal family home
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £176,950

LOWER GORNAL

Winrush Close
* A good size DETACHED property
* In an enviable cul-de-sac location
* An open plan lounge and dining kitchen
* THREE bedrooms, en-suite shower room
* Family bathroom
* UPVC double glazed windows
* Driveway with off road parking
* A good size rear garden and garage
* An ideal family home
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £168,950

DUDLEY

Attingham Drive
* A Modern TOWN HOUSE
* Set over three storey's
* Contemporary & spacious
* Lounge & dining Kitchen
* FOUR double bedrooms
* Two En-suites & family bathroom
* Allocated parking for 2/3 cars
* Rear garden set over 3 tiers
* EPC Rating - B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £160,000

SEDGLEY

Dumbleberry Avenue
* An excellent size semi-detached property
* Sought after Brownswall Estate
* Open plan Lounge & Dining Room
* Kitchen & large Garage
* Three bedrooms
* Gas central heating
* An ideal family home
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £157,950

WEST BROMWICH

York Crescent
* A Modern style semi-detached property
* Immaculately presented accommodation
* Kitchen with integrated appliances
* Guest cloakroom * Lounge
* Three bedrooms * En-suite to Master
* Family bathroom with 'white' suite
* Garage & driveway parking
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £148,950

UPPER GORNAL

Ripley Grove
* SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED
* A modern three bed end townhouse
* Built 5 years ago, NHBC warranty
* Lounge, open plan dining kitchen
* Downstairs cloakroom
* En-suite to master bedroom
* Driveway parking
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £146,950

SEDGLEY

Crown Close
* A beautifully presented end property
* Situated in walking distance to Sedgley
* Garage & off road parking
* An excellent size lounge
* Recently fitted modern kitchen
* Three bedrooms and bathroom
* Rear garden
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £146,495

COSELEY

Clifton Street
* A modern detached bungalow
* Private access road off Clifton St
* Well maintained accommodation
* Two bedrooms & Wet Room
* Lounge and conservatory
* Low maintenance garden
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £142,500

COSELEY

Rosalind Avenue
A traditional style semi-detached
On the popular Bramford Estate
Lounge & Dining Room
Modern breakfast Kitchen
Three bedrooms
Garage and drive
Rear garden
NO UPWARD CHAIN
EPC Rating - D

PRICE £138,950

UPPER GORNAL

Valley Road
* A Modern semi detached property
* Extended accommodation
* Lounge, Dining Kitchen
* Conservatory, Utility room
* Three bedrooms
* En-suite & bathroom
* Garage and drive
* An ideal first time buy
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £130,950

SEDGLEY

Tipton Street
* A traditional terrace property
* In walking distance into Sedgley Centre
* Dining room, Lounge
* Kitchen & Utility room
* THREE bedrooms
* Good size rear garden
* An ideal First time buy
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £123,950

COSELEY

The Castings
* Modern end of town house style property
* Well maintained and contemporary
* An open plan style breakfast kitchen
* Conservatory & downstairs w.c.
* Two good size bedrooms
* Situated on a larger corner plot
* Good size rear gardens
* Two allocated parking spaces
* An ideal starter home
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £119,950

COSELEY

Chad Road
* A GOOD SIZE semi-detached home
* Excellent location for good local schools
* Lounge & open plan dining kitchen
* Three bedrooms
* Garage & Driveway parking
* Ideal for first time buyers
* Viewing highly recommended
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £114,950

COSELEY

Corfe Road
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* A traditional semi-detached
* Lounge & Dining room
* Extended kitchen * Verandah
* Three bedrooms
* Some cosmetic updating required
* Upvc double glazing
* EPC Rating - TBC

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £111,950

SEDGLEY

Castle Street
* A DECEPTIVELY spacious terrace
* In walking distance to Sedgley Village
* Upgraded and refurbished throughout
* Three good size bedrooms
* Lounge & Dining Room
* Kitchen Extension
* An ideal first time buy
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £111,950

COSELEY

Rainbow Street
* A semi detached bungalow
* Ideal buy-to-let investment
* Current rental income being £6,825 pa.
* Lounge & galley kitchen
* Two bedrooms
* Recently installed central heating
* Recently re-wired & re-plastered
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £95,000

DUDLEY

Limes Road
* A modern semi-detached property
* Conveniently situated for Dudley Town Centre
* Kitchen & good size lounge
* Two bedrooms & bathroom
* Off road parking for 4 cars
* Low maintenance rear garden
* Ideal first time buy
* EPC Rating - D

£95,000

PARKHOUSE GARDENS, LOWER

Park Road
* A BRAND NEW development
* 5 Bungalows remaining
* High standard and contemporary
* OPEN PLAN style living space
* Luxury breakfast kitchen
* ALLOCATED PARKING
* Rear garden with sunny aspect
* Ideal for independent individuals
* EPC Rating - B

£99,950

SEDGLEY MEWS, TIPTON

Thunderbolt Way
* A modern and stylish top floor apartment *
Outstanding open aspect views
* Light and airy lounge with dining area
* Kitchen with integrated appliances
* Useful pantry/store
* Spacious bedroom with built-in wardrobes
* Bathroom with white suite
* Secure entry system
* Allocated parking
* EPC Rating - B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £89,950

UPPER GORNAL

Alderwood Rise
18 Alderwood Rise, Dudley, DY3 2DY.
We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £81,500 on the above property. Any interested parties must admit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts take place. The Energy Performance Certificate Rating is D.

£81,950

ETTINGSHALL PARK

Dovedale Road
* A WELL presented Maisonette
* In a popular residential location
* TWO bedrooms
* Kitchen * Lounge
* An ideal first time buy or investment
* Viewing is highly recommended
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £74,950

UPPER GORNAL

The Arcade
* A SPACIOUS maisonette
* Excellent location for local amenities
* TWO Bedrooms
* Lounge, Kitchen & Dining Room
* Upvc double glazed windows
* Gas central heating
* An ideal investment or first time buy
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £69,950

TIPTON

Thunderbolt Way
* A modern and stylish apartment
* With secure entry system
* Allocated parking
* Open plan style living
* One double bedroom
* Shower room
* An ideal first time buy or investment
* EPC Rating - TBC

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £62,950

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MILKING BANK

HASTINGS COURT

●EPC Rating E●An Extended Detached Property●Five Bedrooms●Lounge●Dining Room Opening Into Conservatory●Ground Floor Cloakroom, Utility Room & Kitchen Having Integrated Appliances●Principal Bedroom Having En-Suite●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Rear Garden Having Lawn & Patio●Block Paved Drive

£235,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

SEDGLEY

DUDLEY ROAD

●EPC Rating D●A Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow●Lounge●Kitchen Diner●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Mature Rear Garden●Drive

£160,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

NEW

DIBDALE ROAD

●EPC Rating Awaited●Three Bedroom Semi Detached●Through Lounge/Dining Room●Fitted Kitchen●Conservatory●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Garage En Bloc●Enclosed Rear Garden:-Viewing Recommended

£125,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

HOLLY HALL

BROMFORD ROAD

●EPC Rating Awaited●Semi Detached Property ●Three Bedrooms●Two Living Rooms●Kitchen●Bathroom ●Double Glazing Where Stated●Rear Garden●Driveway Parking

£102,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

NETHERTON

NEW

ST PETERS RD

●EPC Rating D●Semi Detached ●Two Bedrooms●Lounge ●Fitted Kitchen●Ground Floor Cloakroom ●4 Piece Bathroom●Double Glazing Where Stated ●Gas Central Heating System●Rear Garden

£99,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

NEW

BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD

●EPC Rating E●Three Bedroom Semi Detached●Lounge & Dining Room ●Kitchen●Bathroom●Conservatory ●Double Glazing Where Stated ●Gas Central Heating System●Extensive Rear Garden ●Driveway Parking

£108,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

LOWER GORNAL

NEW

PIMLICO COURT

●EPC Rating E●An Improved Mid Townhouse●Three Bedrooms●Lounge●Fitted Kitchen/ Dining Room●Conservatory●Ground Floor Cloakroom●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Enclosed Rear Garden●Block

£120,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON

LARA GROVE

●EPC Rating D●Modern Semi Detached●Two Bedrooms●Lounge Overlooking Rear Garden●Fitted Kitchen●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Gardens To Side & Rear●Driveway Parking

£107,500 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

ROWLEY REGIS

HIGHFIELD ROAD

●EPC RATING D ●Extended Three Bedroom Semi Detached ●Two Reception Rooms ●Fitted Breakfast Kitchen ●Ground Floor Cloakroom ●Bathroom Upstairs ●Utility Room ●Gas Central Heated System ●Double Glazed Where Stated ●Rear Garden

£164,950 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE

OAKHAM ROAD

●EPC D●An Extended Detached●Three Bedrooms●Extended Breakfast Kitchen●Utility Room●Garage●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Rear Garden●Drive●No Chain

£145,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

CLAUGHTON ROAD

●EPC Rating D●A Four Bedroom Semi Detached Property●Bedroom Four Leads From Bedroom Three●Two Reception Rooms●Breakfast Room●Kitchen●No Chain

£120,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY

NEW

BECKENSALL CLOSE

●EPC Rating C●Modern End Townhouse●Two Bedrooms●En-Suite To Bedroom One●Lounge To Front●Kitchen Diner To Rear●Bathroom●Double Glazing Where Stated●Gas Central Heating System●Gardens To Rear & Side●Driveway

£117,000 DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

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TO LET

CAROLINE ST

●EPC Rating E●Mid Terraced Property●Three Bedrooms●Lounge●Kitchen Diner●Double Glazing●Close To Dudley Town

£475 PM DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

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●●REDUCED to £465 per month this property must be viewed to appreciate the value on offer comprising of entrance hall, lounge, kitchen diner, landing, two bedrooms & bathroom. The property is ideally located for all local ameneties and bus routes

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DUDLEY

REDWOOD AVENUE

●EPC Rating D●An Extended Three Bedroom Semi Detached●Extended Rear & Front Living Rooms●Fitted Kitchen●Ground Floor Extended Wet Room●Bathroom●Double Glazing●Central Heating●Garden●Garage●Drive

£595 P/M DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

LOWER GORNAL

BROOKDALE

●EPC Rating C●Three Bedroom Semi Detached●Lounge●Fitted Kitchen Having Integrated Hob & Oven●Bathroom Having White Suite●Double Glazing●Central Heating●Contemporary Decorated

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DUDLEY

TO LET

EDWARD STREET

●EPC Rating D●Three Storey Property●Two Bedrooms●Lounge●Dining Room●Kitchen Diner●Double Glazing

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TO LET

GREEN PARK ROAD

●EPC Rating E●Semi Detached●Two Double Bedrooms●Lounge● Fitted Kitchen●Double Glazing●Drive●Beautifully Presented

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UPPER GORNAL

TO LET

NAYLORS GROVE

●EPC Rating C●Ground Floor Maisonette●Two Bedrooms●Fitted Kitchen●Lounge●Bathroom●Double Glazing●Central Heating●Rear Garden

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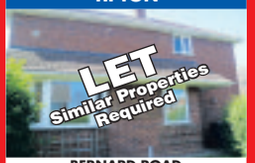

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Motoring

Vauxhall's Insignia is now a far more compelling car

By David Banner

VAUXHALL'S Insignia has evolved but to really appreciate the changes, you'll need a version like the Tech Line model we look at here with its sat nav system and Intellilink infotainment screen.

Medium range family models are very different these days. Want proof? Then just take a seat inside a Vauxhall Insignia. And ideally a Tech Line-specced one equipped with the brand's latest Intellilink infotainment fitted. This not only connects you into the standard sat nav system you get at this level but it also enables you to do everything from Bluetoothing your 'phone to accessing a whole series of Vauxhall-sourced apps. The future has truly arrived.

Of course, there's a lot more to this latest Insignia than just a bit of interior hi-tech. Prices are tighter and running costs a great deal lower if you choose one of the latest 2.0 CDTi diesel engines developing either 120 or 140PS. Both these units are available to Tech Line buyers. Let's check this car out.

The Insignia now feels a far more mature car to drive – and all the main powerplants most British customers choose are offered to Tech Line buyers.

Under the skin, over 60% of the chassis componentry is new – but it's not enough to make this into a car you'd really describe as 'rewarding'. What it does do is perfect what was there in the first place. This Insignia really is now dynamically fit for family and business purposes, with no caveats. True, a Mazda6 or a Mondeo might handle the twisties with a little more elan, but for most of the people, most of the time, this, dynamically, is all the car they will ever need, quietly and effectively getting on with the job of getting you from A to B.

The 'quietly' bit's important. Almost all Insignia buyers want a diesel and though the original version of Vauxhall's 2.0 CDTi unit had many merits, refinement wasn't one of them. In fact, it was one of the noisiest, rattliest diesels in its class. But isn't now. True, there are still quieter black pump buys in this class but at least this car will no longer wake the neighbours when you fire up on a cold morning or tire you in traffic with its constant rumbling thrum.

Visually, there are no sheet metal changes to this improved Insignia. Instead, there are detail improvements front and rear that aim to bring a wider and lower look to the hatch, saloon and Sports Tourer estate bodystyles that, as before, make up the range.

Inside, much of the switchgear has been tidied up onto a central 8-inch colour touchscreen that deals with everything from navigation to trip computer read-outs and audio selections, Bluetooth 'phone functions to a series of Vauxhall-sourced apps.

There's even a touchpad behind the gearlever that accepts one, two or three finger gestures for the various operating functions – or you can press a button on the steering wheel and activate the whole thing by voice control. It's not the most immediately intuitive of systems to initially get to grips with but if you struggle a bit with these things, you can download a smartphone handbook app which you point at the switch in question for a tutorial.

More hi-tech can be viewed through the redesigned three-spoke leather-trimmed steering wheel where you'll find an instrument cluster with another 8-inch high resolution display.

This one, also optional and framed by conventional analogue gauges either side, is primarily there to show a virtual speedometer but can also be configured to display all sorts of information such as smartphone or audio use – or even navigation.

Bracket

For Insignia buyers, there's a premium of around £2,650 to go from the entry-level Design trim to the Tech Line spec we're looking at here. That means a price span in the £20,000 to £25,000 bracket and an engine choice that gives you all three of the main 2.0 CDTi diesel units (the 120, 140 and 163PS engines), plus the 140PS 1.4 Turbo. The Tech Line asking price gets you not only satellite navigation and the Intellilink infotainment system but also a range of other added value features. These include 17-inch alloy wheels, auto headlamps and wipers, rear electric windows and an anti-dazzle rear view mirror.

Other standard Insignia features include LED daytime running lights, Bluetooth 'phone compatibility, electronic climate control, a driver's seat with powered height and lumbar adjustment, a trip computer, cruise control and a decent quality stereo system plus USB and aux-in compatibility controllable from the steering wheel. Insignia Tech Line buyers get the choice of a five-door hatch or, for a premium of around £1,700, the versatile Sports Tourer estate. As for safety, well, there's the usual standard stuff – twin front, side and curtain airbags, plus the usual electronic assistance for brakes, traction and stability control to hopefully ensure you'll never need to use them. It's enough to merit a five-star Euro NCAP safety rating.

This Insignia is now dynamically fit for family and business purposes

Around 85% of Insignia buyers go for a diesel – and you can see why. Both 120 and 140PS versions of the 2.0 CDTi ecoFLEX model return 76.3mpg on the combined cycle and put out just 98g/km of CO2, returns that at launch were comfortably class-leading. This gives this car an astonishing potential 1,175 mile range from its 70-litre fuel tank, which means that the average UK driver covering around 8,200 miles a year would only have to fill up with diesel seven times every twelve months. Or, to put it another way, an Insignia ecoFLEX driver could travel from London to Budapest on one tank of fuel.

In summary then, though this car isn't completely new, it feels that way behind the wheel. Those that are tempted by the shinier prospects of newer rivals will, Vauxhall hopes, be brought back into the Insignia fold by class-leading running costs.

It wasn't long ago that it would have been simply inconceivable for a car of this kind to average over 75mpg and put out less than 100g/km of CO2. But that's exactly what the two most popular diesel versions of this model can now achieve. A tech spec then that sums this car up perfectly.

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2. Highest: VAUXHALL Insignia 5dr Hatchback 2.0 CDTi 163PS Tech Line NAV ecoFLEX Stop/Start with 17" wheels, M6: Urban 52.3 (5.4), Extra-urban 76.3 (3.7), Combined 65.7 (4.3). CO_2 emissions 114g/km. Lowest: Insignia 5dr Hatchback 2.0 CDTi 120PS Tech Line NAV ecoFLEX Stop/Start with 17" wheels, M6 Urban 61.4 (4.6), Extra-urban 85.6 (3.3), Combined 76.3 (3.7). CO_2 emissions 98g/km.

All offers subject to stock availability and terms & conditions. Licensed credit brokers, terms and conditions apply. *Finance subject to age and status, guarantees and indemnities may be required. †3+35 monthly payments, based on non-maintained contract over 36 months, max 10,000 miles per annum, excess mileage charges apply if contracted mileage is exceeded. Contract hire by ALD Automotive Ltd. trading as Vauxhall Leasing, Oakwood Park, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3JA. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper. 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.vauxhall.co.uk/warranty. Images used for illustration purposes only.

Motoring

Motor dealer finance – a positive way to buy

FINANCE provided by motor dealers offers consumers a highly convenient, competitive and rapid method of acquiring their car.

Improved regulation focused on responsible lending practices ensures dealers must be absolutely transparent about the terms and overall costs of any agreement, whilst the simplicity of the application process means it avoids the sometimes invasive approach of customers needing to provide bank statements, expenditure forecasts and other sensitive personal information. Therefore motor dealer finance is very customer friendly.

Improved regulation means dealers must be transparent on the deal

Advantages

Recent evidence also highlights customers are currently around twice as likely to be accepted for their finance when compared to a personal loan. In the case of hire purchase, customers also enjoy the advantages of a significantly higher level of consumer protection than they would receive with a personal loan.

Dealer finance can also prove a highly competitive option. A review of current personal loan rates reveals that best in class rates from high street and supermarket lenders range from 6.5 per cent to 24.9 per cent representative APR for a £5000 loan over 36 months. What these do not reveal is the relatively low acceptance rate and the extensive use of 'rate for risk' underwriting; wherein the rate a borrower is offered may be higher than that advertised rate if the customer's credit profile warrants it. It is understood this scenario is a very regular one.

Other finance options such as credit cards have the potential to be significantly more costly, unless the borrower is able to settle their agreement very quickly.

Finance specialist with Motor Market, Dean Bridge, said that with regard to price, it is important to recognise that there is a cost to all dealers and finance providers to offer borrowing facilities.

"For the lender, it is also something that carries both risk and reward. In the case of risk, the country saw this all too obviously through the credit crunch, " he said.

"During this period, when other lending was largely curtailed, dealer finance kept lending, enabling consumers to buy the car they wanted for work and social use," he said. "To ensure customers get absolutely best value I would encourage car buyers to research their finance options, including Motor Dealer finance and bearing in mind that personal loan acceptance levels remain depressed and that rate for risk may mean a higher than advertised representative APR.

"I also suggest that buyers investigate the 'total amount payable' to change car on finance. It is certainly possible that a lower interest rate could be offset by a higher car purchase price.

"The bottom line result is however likely to be the same."

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SEAT IBIZA 1.4 SE 09 Reg, 5-dr, Air Con, Alloys, 37k, FSH	£5495
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FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCi ZETEC 59 Reg, 5-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 42k, FSH	£7395
VW PASSAT 2.0 TD SE ESTATE DSG 57 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 39k, FSH	£7995
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BMW 320 CD SPORT COUPE 55 Reg, Blue, Air Con, Alloys, Leather Sports Seats, 63k, FSH	£6995
RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 COUPE DYNAMIQUE TOM TOM 60 Reg, 3-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 18k, FSH	SOLD
MPVS	
VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE 58 Reg, Silver, Air Con, 32k, FSH	£5495
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VW TOURAN 2.0 TDi SPORT 56 Reg, 5-dr, Blue, Air Con, Alloys, 64k, FSH	£6995
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VOLVO C30 1.6D SPORT R-DESIGN

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VW BEETLE 1.9 TDi CABRIOLET

08 (57 Reg) Green, Air Con, Alloys, 42k, FSH £8495

RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 COUPE DYNAMIQUE

TOM TOM 60 Reg, 3-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 18k, FSH £7395

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59 Reg 1.2 Clio £4495 or £21 pw
06 Reg Megane Cab 1.5 DCi £4495 or £20pw
08 Reg 1.4 207 £4495 or £21 pw
59 Reg Lauguna 1.5DCi £5995 or £28 pw
08 Reg Zafira 1.9 CDTi £6995 or £33 pw
08 Reg 1.4 HDi 207 £5495 or £26pw
09 Reg Toyota Aygo £5495 or £26 pw
08 Reg 1.4 207 £4295 or £20 pw
13 Reg Focus 1.0 Edge £10995 or £52 pw
11 Reg Astra Auto £7495 or £35pw
12 Reg Proton 1.6 GSX £6495 or £30pw
08 Reg 1.4 Astra Coupe £5295 or £24pw
06 Reg Megane £3495 or £16pw
08 Reg 1.8 TDCi Focus £6295 or £31pw
56 Reg 1.4 Fiesta Zetec £2495
10 Reg 207 1.4 HDi £6295 or £30 pw
07 Reg Scenic 1.6 £4295 or £23 pw
59 Reg 1.4 HDi 207 £5495 or £26pw
08 Reg 1.2 Ka £3495 or £16 pw
62 Reg 1.6 Mokka £13995 or £65pw
61 Reg Astra CDTi Est £10495 or £49 pw
54 Reg Ford C-Max £1995
57 Reg Zafira 1.9 CDTi £5495 or £25 pw
62 Reg 1.5 DCi Megane £10995 or £52pw
07 Reg 1.6 Scenic £3995 or £18pw
58 Reg 1.9 Golf TDi £6795 or £26pw
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05 Reg Mini Cooper S £5495 or £25 pw
09 Reg Insigna 2.0 CDTi £6795 or £33 pw
57 Reg Ford Ka £3295 or £15 pw
56 Reg 1.2 Fiesta £3995 or £18pw
62 Reg 1.8 Insignia £10995 or £52pw
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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2. VAUXHALL Meriva Active 1.4i 16V 100PS, M5: Urban 36.2 (7.8), Extra-urban 55.4 (5.1), Combined 46.3 (6.1). CO2 emissions 143g/km.

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Motoring

This version of the best selling Subaru, is fresh, good-looking and a great drive on the road and off-road

Award for the all-new Forester from Subaru

SUBARU UK's best-selling model, the Subaru Forester, has been named 'Mid Range SUV of the Year' by 4x4 Magazine.

Subjecting the new Forester to a wide range of tests both on- and off-road, 4x4 Magazine awarded the Forester with class honours in one of the hardest-fought categories in its annual '4x4 of the Year' issue.

Commenting on the Forester's victory, Nigel Fryatt, editor of 4x4 Magazine, said: "Subaru's latest Forester impressed us both on and off road. This version is fresh, good-looking and a great drive. It has 'good for its class' approach and departure angles and with the automatically controlled X-Mode system, the Forester maintains its competent off-road ability and bad weather credentials. That it is also great to drive on the road is the bonus that grabbed the class victory."

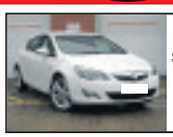
The Forester builds on the model's established reputation as a tough, likeable and highly capable SUV. At the same time, it offers improved performance, safety and efficiency and a more spacious and better appointed cabin.

Sales of the Forester are up 75% year on year against 2012. The petrol turbo XT has been in particularly high demand among the Subaru faithful - bucking the trend for strong diesel SUV sales – with its 240ps 2.0-litre turbocharged direct-injection petrol engine and clever X-Mode hill descent system.

The new model is also available with Subaru's latest 2.0-litre petrol and diesel Boxer engines, with all versions featuring Subaru's trademark symmetrical All-wheel drive as standard.

Paul Tunnicliffe, managing director of Subaru UK, said: "We are delighted with this recognition. The Forester has always been popular with owners who need a car that is highly accomplished off-road but also entertaining on it, and the decision by 4x4 Magazine's expert judges is testament to the car's varied abilities."

DUDLEY MOTOR COMPANY


10 10 ASTRA 1.4 SRi TURBO
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£8995

09 09 ASTRA 1.6 TWIN TOP
Silver Lightning, 40k miles
£6495

12 12 ASTRA 1.4 TURBO GTC
3dr, Black, 14k miles
£12,495

13 13 ASTRA 1.6 SE
Auto, 5dr, Silver, 12k miles
£11,995

10 60 MERIVA 1.4 SE
5dr, Oriental Blue, 14k miles
£7995

12 12 INSIGNIA SRi NAV 2.0 CDTi
5dr, Silver, 24k miles
£12,995

13 13 ANTARA 2.2 CDTi EXCLUSIVE 4X4
Smoke Grey, 5k miles
£17,995

11 11 CORSA 1.4 SRi
3dr, Black, 20k miles
£7995

12 12 ASTRA SRi 2.0 CDTi
Auto, 5dr, Silver, 21k miles
£10,995

12 62 CORSA 1.6 VXR
Arden Blue, 5k miles
£13,995

11 61 CORSA 1.3 CDTi EXCITE
5dr, Metallic Blue, 30k miles
£8495

11 61 ZAFIRA 1.7 CDTi ELITE
5dr, Silver, 15k miles
£11,995

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10 60 CORSA ENERGY 1.2
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07 07 PERODUA 1.3 SXi
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08 08 MERIVA 1.4 DESIGN
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05 05 PEUGEOT 307CC 180BHP 2.0
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10 10 KIA PICANTO 1.0
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06 56 VECTRA LIFE 1.8
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05 54 FORD C-MAX 1.8 GHIA
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05 05 PEUGEOT 206 CC ALLURE
Blue, 57k miles
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12 12 VIVARO 9 SEAT COMBI MINI BUS
White, 15k miles
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11 61 VAUXHALL VIVARO LWB 2.0 CDTi
White, 192k miles
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13 63 COMBO L1 H1 1.3 CDTi SPORTIV Silver, Delivery miles only
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06 55 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 1.6 DESIRE
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Take Note of this new star on the city streets

Boot-iful – there's certainly plenty of room in the back of the new Nissan Note

The entry-level 1.2-litre petrol engine gets 60 miles from a gallon of unleaded

By David Banner

THE British-built Note has proven to be one of Nissan's biggest hits and the second generation model looks to build on that success with a different twist.

The Nissan Note moves towards the conventional supermini in second generation guise but it's still set to be a family favourite.

Better quality, sharper styling, interesting safety gear and a fascinating three-cylinder engine with a decoupling supercharger are the order of the day here.

Certain cars were always going to be hits from the moment the designer's pen left the sketchpad. The success of others wasn't so easy to predict. Nissan's Note falls into the latter category. Yes, it's clearly a well-built family car that appealed across a broad customer base, but that could be said of a number of its rivals. Where the British-built Note scored was in offering Nissan's renowned build quality at very accessible prices, building on the success of the Micra, a formula subsequently reprised by the massive-selling Qashqai and Juke crossovers.

Nissan is a company renowned for its engineering innovation but sometimes that hi-tech approach fails to filter down to its more everyday models. Not this time. Take the petrol engines in this Note. The entry-level is a three-cylinder 1.2-litre 80PS unit. So far so unexciting. But you can also buy a version of this engine, the 1.2-litre DIG-S, with a supercharger that boosts power to 98PS. Ah, but aren't superchargers notoriously fuel-hungry things, running all the time whether you need them or not? Most are but not this one which uses a clutch pack to disengage the supercharger when running at low speeds.

This engine also uses the Miller Cycle, a system which keeps the inlet valves open longer to help efficiency, as is also offered with CVT automatic transmission. Should you prefer, you can also get a 90PS 1.5-litre diesel engine.

The Note has been extensively developed in Europe to offer a driving experience that's right for our road conditions. With a distinct set-up from that of the Japanese and US market, the European version has unique steering, suspension and chassis settings. The 1.2-litre DIG-S model has further dynamic tweaks for an even more engaging experience.

Expensive

The old Note was a neatly styled if somewhat anonymous-looking thing. The latest car has a good deal more styling going on and a more expensive look and feel, both in and out. The chrome grille that seems to take a bite out of each headlight, the nicely chamfered wheel arches and the detail lines in the flanks that help avoid a slab-sided look.

Nissan calls this the 'Squash Line' because it was apparently inspired by the angles a squash ball takes around a court.

There's not too much squashing going on inside. There's a decent amount of room and the materials quality has improved considerably, although some of the minor switchgear still looks old and cheap.

The dash is all hard-finish plastic, although the piano-black centre console lifts things. It's a bit odd that the door pulls are the only items finished in chrome in the whole front cabin too. The rear isn't bad for legroom thanks to a sliding rear bench, although taller occupants may find headroom a push.

Prices sit in the £12,000 to £18,000 bracket and the Note is offered in four familiar trim grades – VISIA, Acenta, Acenta Premium and Tekna. All models feature stop-start ignition systems, six airbags and cruise control with a speed limiter.

Mid-spec Acenta models add air-conditioning, Bluetooth connection and rear electric windows, while top grade Tekna models feature the Safety Shield pack, Nissan Connect, Around View Monitor, part leather trim and keyless entry with i-key.

The entry-level 1.2-litre petrol engine gets 60 miles from a gallon of unleaded and even if the driver opts for the more powerful 98PS DIG-S supercharged version, you'll actually be looking at improved economy; a return of 66mpg should make this one a popular choice.

Emissions? Again the DIG-S engine comes up trumps. This gets 99g/km with the manual gearbox, but you'll have to watch the CVT auto option which bumps things up to 119g/km and could have expensive tax implications for business users. The base 1.2 manages a reasonable 109g/km with its manual 'box.

Of course there will be many who will look at nothing but a diesel engine in this class and the 1.5-litre DCI powerplant won't disappoint.

This returns an incredible 78mpg on the combined cycle and emissions are tied right down at just 95g/km. Nissan's start-stop ignition system is fitted to all models.

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Motoring

When winding through the hills its accurate steering is sporty

Performance and economy in a Mercedes

DRIVING a good-looking or arresting car often attracts admiring glances. Occasionally, the attention can be unwelcome. Here's a case in point.

I rented a house in the south of France for a holiday earlier this year and drove down in a Mercedes CLA.

What a lovely trip it was going to be. And indeed it was, except for one incident on my way out just south of Lyon.

I was driving along a dual carriageway and overtook a rather battered looking small French car. The vehicle then proceeded to overtake mine and its occupants gestured for me to pull over.

Suspicious of their motives, I immediately took advantage of the car's power to leave others standing and left them well behind.

I was driving the CLA 220 CDI, the only diesel model available, which has excellent in-gear acceleration, as I discovered. This is especially true in sport mode, which I quickly engaged, where the throttle response and gearshifts from the dual-clutch gearbox are sharp indeed. It will also get up to 62mph in 8.1 seconds.

Combination

Aside from needing that speed of response, this is a car that loves cruising around town and eating up those hundreds of miles very comfortably when driving through France. And when you get stuck in the holiday traffic on the bottlenecks to the sun, the stop/start saves you plenty of fuel. And speaking of fuel, for a car of this size and capability, consumption is very healthy and gives you more money to spend on wine to bring back.

On the motorway run I got close to 60mpg on the journey there and again on the way back with a boot full of Provencal rose.

Add low CO2 emissions to the economy and it is an attractive option for company car drivers. And when winding through the hills of Provence the car, with its accurate steering, is very sporty with low-roll cornering and keen front-end bite giving a very enjoyable ride.

There's no denying that it is a striking car with a combination of short overhangs, a 'pushy' front, sharp creases and a gently sloping roofline. It looks great from nearly every angle.

Two trim levels are available in the UK. Top-spec AMG Sport models have five-spoke AMG alloys, a silver pin grille and slightly deeper bodywork and the entry-level Sport, as driven by me, is attractive enough.

Inside it's as stylish as the outside with sports seats giving a low seating position that adjusts every which way to get the perfect position for every driver, plus quality materials and finish. There are several driving assistance systems (some standard and some options) which reduce the driver's workload.

Standard-fit features for the coupé include Attention Assist – drowsiness detection (and that worked with me after a long stint behind the wheel with me thinking I'll just go on to the next services when I really did need to take a break) and radar-based Collision Prevention Assist with adaptive Brake Assist.

If the warnings don't work this latter feature combines with Distronic Plus to become Collision Prevention Assist Plus, incorporating an additional function.

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The system also brakes in response to stationary vehicles at a speed of up to 19mph and is able to prevent rear-end collisions at speeds of up to 12mph. And safety is more and more becoming the name of the game when choosing which car to go for.

Established assistance systems, such as Adaptive Highbeam Assist and the Lane Tracking package with Blind Spot and Lane Keeping Assist, are also available for the CLA.

My conclusion? It's an excellent motorway cruiser, likes the town, loves the country and has a nice balance between performance and economy. Prices start at £24,355 on the road.

The CLA is as stylish on the inside as out

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BEAUTIFUL CHIHUAHUA white, KC registered, 3 year old proven stud, in need of new loving home, £200. 07547 984922.

BLANKETS/DUVETS NEEDED Urgently for dogs bedding. Can collect quantity. Call 07729 660894.

CAT SHELTERS, NEW tongue & groove, on legs, green felted roof £25, can deliver. 07519 724789.

DOG-BOARDERS REQUIRED
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Tel: 01384 820201
Email: paulandjan@pals4pets.co.uk

HEADS & TAILS dog grooming service. £5 off every fifth visit. Please call 07792 870543.

JACK RUSSELL Cross Poodle, 10 weeks, small, dogs/bitches, £250. 07804 443044.

JACK RUSSELL puppies ready for good homes. £130. Family reared. 07815 780948 or 07727 197486.

JACK RUSSELL PUPPY 8 weeks old, smooth coat, small legs £200. 01384 233910.

MALTESE PUPPIES, first vac, health checked, boys £450, girls £475. 07972 604503.

PEDIGREE CHIHUAHUA PUPS 4 months old, vaccinated, mom and dad can be seen, £650 each. Bilston 01902 560384.

PUG PUPPIES, KC reg, innoculated, microchipped, 1 boy and 1 girl, fawn, £1,000. 07806 415498.

PUGALIERS PUPS (Pug/Cavalier cross), first vac, health checked, £350. 07972 604503.

SCOTTIE PUPS with parents, great temperament, non malting, wormed, puppy pack, insured. Ring Sue for further details on 01948 662784. 07939 036441.

SHIH-TZU PUPPIES good colours, first vaccinations. £350. 07972 604503.

STAFFIE PUPS most black, ready to go, KC applied. £200. 01902 250808. 07854 982007.

TOY YORKSHIRE TERRIER Girl, 7 months old. £500. 07580 485709.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties: 0121 520 5318.

business directory

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6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

CHAPEL ASH: Clean 1-bed Flat, DG, off road parking, £95 pwk. 01902 340073 or 07770 660636.

COSELEY comfortable 1 bed, 1st floor, s/c, unfurnished flat, ideal 30+, £330 pcm. 01902 758934.

DOUBLE ROOM £340pcm, available December 2, Copthorne, 10 minutes from Hospital. Small room, £200pcm, Copthorne area, available November 25. Contact 07833 387317.

DSSMOVE.CO.UK the property website where properties say YES to DSS tenants.

ESSINGTON modern one bed flat, rural location, lovely outlook, no DSS, £400 pcm. 07454 015789.

ETTINGSHALL 3 bed mid terrace house, 2 lounges, 2 bathrooms, spacious fitted kitchen, off road parking, £580pcm. 07722 664154.

FLAT TO LET, 4 bed, DG, CH, Rushall. 3 bed house to let, DG, CH. Bloxwich. 07448 985201.

FLAT TO Rent Bilston, with private parking with disabled access. £400pcm. 07966 527807.

FLATS TO RENT Dudley / W'ton. 0800 131 3348/0300 123 3511 contactus@sanctuary-housing.co.uk

FOUR / FIVE BED HOUSE To let, West Park also en suite rooms all inclusive. DSS Ok. 01902 686605.

FULLY FURNISHED STUDIO FLAT Tettenhall area, No DSS. 07976 263435 or 01902 700028.

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01384 814183 or 01384 811453

LUXURY APARTMENT Deansgate development, Willenhall Road, 2 double bedrooms, en suite, fantastic location for commuters, £440 pcm. 07515 032538.

OLDBURY / TIVIDALE Two bed modern flat. Unfurnished. No DSS. £400pcm. 07855 847977

PENSNETT/ Dudley / Blackheath. 1/3 bed flat/house. Dep/rent neg. 0121 550 0064 or 07970 980955

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ROOMS in W-ton, no smokers, no DSS, deposit / ref required, from £45pw plus bills. 07890 503574.

THREE BED house, Netherton, CH, DG, ideal for family, £140pw. 07949 433986.

THREE BED HOUSE Silverend area of Brierley Hill, GCH, DHSS welcome. £400pcm. 07966 276014 / 07948 447968.

TIPTON, 2 bedroom semi-detached, garden, off road parking, DSS family welcome 07772 857157

WEDNESFIELD Speedwell Close, 2-bed house, parking, garage, £525pcm. 07800 876199.

1, 2 AND 3 BEDROOM Properties available in Wednesfield / Tipton. DSS accepted. Call: 07773 594640

houses for sale

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motor trade

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part time - general

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NEED EXTRA CASH for Christmas? £200-£2,000 pm - 0121 314 9652. www.bericher.info

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

AUDI A3 1.9 TDi 08 reg black, 5 dr, 113k, FSH, tax, MoT, £30 year tax, good condition, £6,195 ono. 07931 424119 / 07979 712855.

CITROEN C1 VTR, 1.0 09 Reg., 49,000 miles, 3Dr, 12 months MoT and tax, excellent condition, £2,995. 07944 851506.

CITROEN C2 VTR, 56 reg, full MoT and SH, 6 months tax, low mileage, every extra, owned from new, £2,995. 07970 105215.

CITROEN C4 VTR, 08, Petrol, silver, MoT, taxed, 36.8k, C/C, A/C, beautiful condition. £3,400 ono. 07880 673491 / 01902 847139.

FORD FIESTA 62 reg, new shape, 4000 miles from new, company car forces sale. Must sell £4,995. 07405 155308.

FORD FOCUS ST, 02, silver, tax, MoT, radio, CD, 72,000 miles, good condition, £1,950. ono. 07760 887220.

KIA PICANTO 1.1LS, auto, 5-dr, 2007, blue, 1 owner from new, serviced, 9 months MoT and tax, 32k miles, £3,750 ono. 01384 638424.

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NISSAN X-TRAIL TDi SPORT 2003, Diesel, 6 speed manual, silver, Tax, MoT September, £2,850.ono. 01902 747180 / 07774 898966.

PEUGEOT 206 ZEST
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07794 685166

PEUGEOT 407 1.6SE HDi Black, 04 54, 92,000 miles, taxed and MoT'd, SH, very clean. £1,875 ono. 07527 230756.

IMMACULATE

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1.2 S AC 2008, (58) 35,700 miles, Red, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, AC, fsh, alarm, MoT, long MoT, central locking, pas, alloys, stereo, CD, petrol, immaculate condition.
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VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2sxi, Silver, 05 plate. Rare ac model. FSH, 29k miles. MOT Aug 14. Warranty / part ex ava £2495 ono. 07543 481453 T

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4, 07, new shape, grey, 5dr, alloys, CD, tax, MoT, good condition. £3,000 ono. 01902 336638 or 07970 965395.

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8 16V EXCLUSIVE
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07980 078148.

VECTRA 2007CDTi, 1900 diesel Auto, 35,151miles, tax/MoT, reduced to £2,800 no offers. 01902 822401 or 07757 110049.

cars under £1500

FORD FIESTA Ghia, K Reg, long MoT, taxed, good runner, £300. 01902 344669.

FORD MONDEO 1.8LX Limited Edition, Minstral, 04, long tax, Mot, aircon, EW, heated screen, PAS, CD, £995 ono. 07400 775276.

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MERCEDES C 180, W reg., black, 5 months Tax and MoT. £800. Telephone 07415 683140.

PEUGEOT 206 ESTATE 2003, 1400cc, full MOT, taxed, 95,000 miles, good condition. £795. 07587 344165.

PEUGEOT 206 GLX 51 reg, long MoT, taxed, 4 door, always clean, reliable, bargain £595 ono. 07944 077007.

PEUGEOT 206 'LOOK'
'03, 111,111 miles, Silver, elec windows, long MoT, cntrl locking, alloys, CD, petrol, snow tyres, Manual, well looked after!
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SUZUKI SWIFT 2002, 1.0GLS, 89k miles, long MoT, tax, .07526 928218, £495 ono. 01902 493325

TOYOTA YARIS W reg, 3 door, 84K miles, tax, MoT, in family from new, £750. 07880 3859908

VAUXHALL COMBO 2005, MoT 2014, spares or repair, £1,500. 07543 237183.

VAUXHALL MERIVA
2004, 112,500 miles, electric windows, alarm, long MoT, central locking, pas, alloys, CD, petrol,good runner, used daily, black in colour
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VOLVO S40 2L, N reg, 80k miles, reliable, good condition for year, tax April 14. £395. 01384 838379.

VW PASSAT 1.8 2001, long MoT and tax, SH, excellent condition. £850. 01384 440258 / 07882 413544.

classic cars

MERCEDES 220 Touring Estate, 1994, excellent condition, service history, 90,000 miles, £1,800. 07931 979265.

commercial vehicles

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LOOK

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10 Personals

personal

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general

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Endurance put to test by Suicide challenge

MEMBER of Stourbridge running club tested their endurance in the popular Suicide Six race at the weekend.

Held at Baggeridge Park, the run is a10k cross country race.

First out of the eight runners for the club was Adam Harris with a time of 45.04, next was Steven Burch 51.32 and then Colin Downey 51.45.

A total of 552 runners took part.

The club is now taking entries for the 2014 Stourbridge Stagger, a 10-mile multi-terrain race.

The race starts from Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge on February 2 2014 at 10.30am. Visit www.srclub.co.uk for more information.

Anyone wishing to join the club and race as part of a team, they are more than welcome to contact the club.

The members enjoy lots of activities and get to run in races all over the country.

The club meets every Monday and Wednesday at 06.45pm at Stourbridge Cricket Club, Stourbridge War memorial ground.

Jones and Fullwell in darts finals

BRIERLEY Hill's Mark Jones and Stourbridge's Nick Fullwell both competed in the final PDC Players Championship events of the year at the Barnsley Metrodome.

Jones reached the second round on Saturday, beating Mark Cox 6-3 before losing 6-2 to Ian White.

He then reached the third round of Sunday's tournament.

Eventual winner Brendan Dolan halted his challenge 6-3, after Jones had dropped just a leg in a 6-1 win over Sean Ryan before beating Matt Clark 6-2.

Fullwell reached the third round on Saturday before he was defeated 6-2 by Peter Hudson, seeing off Matthew Dicken 6-4 and Joe Cullen in the last leg 6-5.

Ryan Harrington beat him 6-4 in the first round on Sunday.

Fullwell finished 61st in the Pro Tour Order of Merit with winnings of £2,300. Jones was 92nd with £3,700.

Injury-hit Hales goes down to Street

Rugby

Old Hales 14 Broadstreet 20

A LARGE crowd and bitterly cold day saw Hales first team once again hit by last minute injuries to player coach Mark Evans and flanker Dan Young.

Early exchanges in this top of the table clash were not for the faint-hearted as both sides fought for advantage.

The Broadstreet pack were massive and well-drilled, Hales matched them early on but later the visitors were better drilled in lineouts, rucks and mauls.

Hales regularly put their backs in positions to score but the final pass was not accurate enough.

Centres, Carl and Andy Robinson supported by wings Oxford and Smith looked dangerous early on and always looked as if they would break the visitor's defence.

One such move saw excellent passing only for the final pass to be intercepted by Broadstreet and a chase the whole length of the pitch which Hales sopped short of the line.

A penalty to the visitors followed for a 0-3 lead.

The Broadstreet pack then began to dominate making hard yards using their large forward power. Hales fought back, Pete Fitzgerald pinching a ball in the loose to feed the backs including Luke Smith who beat a man and passed to full back Chris Hooper who raced for a try.

Hooper converted to lead 7-3. Broadstreet again used forward power to force a scrum close to Hales line which they drove over for a pushover try, converted 7-10 at half time.

The second half was much the same with the visitor's pack in the ascendency, not pretty but effective, another penalty for Hales infringement converted 7-13.

Hales again worked hard in the loose to win a ball and fed the backs, Joe Oxford made excellent ground on the wing to feed the ever present Hooper to score his second try which he converted to take the lead 14-13.

It was a game of Broadstreet forward power against the stronger backs of the home side, with both sides looking capable of scoring.

It was again the Broadstreet pack, another five metre scrum, another pushover try which was converted for the win.

Old Hales 2nds 32 Sutton 24

Old Halesonians forwards started strongly against Sutton and fed the backs for Tom Harris to score an unconverted try for the lead.

Sutton then won a penalty in front of the posts to make.

With Old Hales forwards taking command Richard Topping drove over for another unconverted try, however, Hales were taken unawares by a quick response from Sutton who scored a converted try, making it 10 all at half time.

Ashton's hat-trick puts Tipton back on track

Tipton Town 4 Heather St Johns 0

A FANTASTIC hat-trick by Tipton's top scorer Danny Ashton got Town back on the winning trail against Heather St John's.

On the back of two defeats and with injuries, suspensions and other commitments decimating the midfield personnel, Tipton's performance and victory was even more impressive. Without the services of Theo Robinson, Mensah Kinch, Mike Perks and Lee Wherton, Tipton boss Ian Rowe

Danny Ashton

brought in Matt Martin and debutant Matt Weyman into an unfamiliar midfield.

Ashton opened the scoring on 17 minutes when he started a move by feeding Marvin Nisbett down the right and his pass to Weyman ended up loose in the box and Ashton was quickest to the ball to slide home.

On 20 minutes, a Ben Hadley shot from the edge of the area went just over the bar and less than a minute later Matt Martin's header from a Rob Perks corner flashed wide of the post.

Ashton doubled his tally on 28 minutes when a handball inside the Heather area saw a penalty awarded which was duly dispatched to end a painful series of

Football

seven missed spot kicks by Town. Four minutes later the game was effectively ended as a contest when Hadley latched on to an excellent pass from Nisbett and finished with style past keeper Peter Maguire.

Heather had a rare excursion into the Tipton penalty area on 39 minutes when James Pemberton was called into action to deny Troy Wallen.

Ashton wrapped up his hat-trick on 63 minutes with a goal that will live long in the memory.

Out on the left wing Connor Gater flicked a ball back over his marker's head, rounded him and volleyed a cross into the Heather penalty area.

The cross found the unmarked Danny Ashton whose bicycle kick from six yards flew into the top left-hand corner to make it 4-0.

With the damage done, Tipton might have done more and a Danny Crudgington shot from the edge of the area hit the top of the bar on 80 minutes.

Line is drawn under Tivs run of winning games

Coleshill Town FC 1 Tividale FC 1

THE amazing run of 13 consecutive Tividale league wins may have ended with a draw at Coleshill Town but their unbeaten run remains and they stay the team everyone wants to beat.

The visitors shaded the early play but were unable to convert the chances they created into goals. At the other end of the pitch Coleshill's only chances came courtesy of a couple of Dean Rathbone free kicks that did not trouble Tividale keeper Charles Price.

It was Coleshill that opened the scoring with forward Matt Brown making the most of some unusual indecision in the Tividale defence and fired home on 25 minutes.

The rest of the half just drifted along with no great goal threat from either side and it ended with a slender lead to Coleshill Town.

Positive

Tividale sensed that they needed to step up their game to avoid a first defeat of the season and their positive start to the half was rewarded on 51 minutes when a Michael Wardle effort was parried away by home keeper Paul Hathaway but it fell straight to the man in form Nathan Waite and his shot back across the keeper went in via the far post.

Tividale then looked to seize the chance to extend their winning run and piled on the pressure. However, it just felt a win was not meant to be as chance after chance went begging.

While though for most of the time the Coleshill defence were stretched to the limit, they were still able to fashion a few of their own opportunities to grab a winner.

In the end Tividale were never able to match the performance of a week earlier at Quorn and earned their first draw of the season in any competition. In addition, credit must go to Coleshill Town who deservedly took a point from the game.

Tividale: Charles Price, Mitchell Plows, Jason Chilton, Chris Field, Mark Smith, Richard Huckfield, Leigh Downing (Chris Rabone), David Bellis, Nathan Waite, Stuart How (Daniel Dubidat), Michael Wardle (Ryan Winwood).

Nathan Waite scores for Tividale to help keep their unbeaten run going

Four-ce of Ferriby is too strong for Town

FA Carlsberg Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round Replay
North Ferriby United 4
Stroubridge 0

GARY HACKETT'S men bowed out of this season's FA Trophy competition as their high-flying Skrill North opponents ultimately proved too strong.

North Ferriby forged in front on 26 minutes when Liam King drove home a low shot from the edge of the area.

Five minutes later the home side doubled their advantage. Danny Hone got in a downward header that bounced off Glassboys midfielder Leon Broadhurst and over the line.

Almost immediately Stourbridge had a chance as Benbow collected the ball in the left channel area, however his chip dropped over the bar.

Stourbridge hopes of a fight-back were effectively ended in first-half stoppage time as Jarman clipped a ball towards the far post for Ryan Kendall to direct a first-time volley past Coleman.

The hosts wrapped up victory in the 69th minute when Kendall through on goal slotted the ball low past Coleman for his second.

Eggington's style keeps him the title

STOURBRIDGE'S Sam Eggington turned on the style at late doors to retain the Midlands welterweight title against Dave Ryan at Aston Villa Football Club.

The champion won the last three rounds to see off the spirited challenge of Derby's Ryan, after 10 gruelling rounds in the Holte Suite on Saturday night.

Referee Shaun Messer awarded the fight to Eggington by 97-95 and the 20-year-old admitted he left it late to ensure that he retained his area crown.

He said: "I thought with me being bigger at the weight, naturally, that was I going to break him down. Really, me winning the last three rounds got me the decision.

"It felt like he had the better of me, at first, but I think I won the fight fair and square. It was good to get the 10 rounds in. If I had blown him away, it would have been pointless."

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SPORT

Ace Ashton
Tipton back on track with hat-trick
Page 43

End of run
Line drawn under winning ways
Page 43

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Ladies are in seven heaven with win

Halesowen Ladies 7
Attleborough 0

THE Halesowen Ladies side pressed from the off and attacked the visiting team, Rachel Letford scored on the 11th minute with some good skills by Haylet Chatwin.

Chatwin with some good work again found Katie Moore unmarked and with the simplest tap-in increased their lead.

With the Yeltz strong midfield of Sarah Hammil and Tracey Haycock dominating the game the home side were well in control.

Early on in the second half Letford was brought down in the area and Sian Whitthall converted the penalty.

Within six minutes Letford got her brace with a low powerful drive.

Goal of the game came when right back Sophie Richards surged forward to receive the ball and with a powerful strike saw her shot loop over the keeper.

Chatwin then became goal scorer from a perfect pass from Letford. On 85 minutes Chatwin made it seven from a Chloe Harris corner.

Another win and another clean sheet for the Yeltz crew, manager Scott Mckee said the strikers will get the rewards but the Yeltz defence and midfield were fantastic, very strong against a good tough Attleborough side.

"The team performance was excellent."

Get ruthless says Jackett

KENNY JACKETT wants Wolves to be more ruthless to maintain their promotion push after challenging the whole team to get on the scoresheet.

Wolves dropped to second place after Saturday's 0-0 draw against Brentford as Leyton Orient won 3-1 at Swindon to reclaim top spot.

Wolves, who have had 12 different scorers this season, failed to net for only the third time in the league this term while keeper Carl Ikeme made two vital late saves to keep his 10th clean sheet of 2013-14.

"Goals have to come from everywhere in the side," said Jackett.

"It's not just about forwards scoring but contributions from everywhere.

"We had a lot of corners and have to make sure we get our quota from set-pieces and goals from midfield."

Promising start is lost late in the game

Halesowen 1 Scarborough 3

Football

HALESOWEN fell at the last hurdle in a disappointing 3-1 defeat to Scarborough, after conceding two late goals.

Halesowen had a chance early on to take the lead as Avun Jephcott had plenty of space in the Boro penalty box and he hit a curling shot that just flew wide of the left hand post.

Aaron Griffiths managed to skip past the Scarborough defence and he ran all the way up to goal via the left wing, and he hit a shot that just went inches wide of the goal and Griffiths was incredibly unlucky to not have a goal to his name. Iyseden Christie managed to break through the Boro' defence once again as he ran on to a through ball from Avun Jephcott and he knocked the ball too far and Jason White was easily able to grab the ball from his feet.

Christie was gifted another chance in front of goal as he was played onside and after trying to trick the keeper, two players had managed to get back into defence and his shot bounced off one of the defenders and wide of the goal.

However, Christie redeemed himself five minutes later after being taken down in the Boro penalty box, he stood up to take the penalty, and the ball flew past former Mansfield team-mate Jason White and the ball flew into the bottom right corner of the net to give the Yeltz a well-deserved lead.

The Boro defence fell apart again as Avun Jephcott was able to run through and he hit a shot at goal which forced a great save from Jason White to deny Jephcott.

The second half kicked with Halesowen claiming the first chance of the game as Christie slotted the ball into the box for Ton Tonks to get to and he just managed to beat the defender to the ball

Avun Jephcott was then denied a goal by an unbelievable save by White as Jephcott hit a curling free-kick towards goal.

Scarborough then got themselves an equaliser as Peter Davison was gifted too much space in the Yeltz penalty area and he was able to turn and hit a shot at goal that rolled under Sargeant and into the net.

Yeltz collapsed in the final stages of the game as Scarborough scored again as Bryan Hughes' free-kick bounced into the net as Matt Sargeant failed to gather the ball.

The Yeltz gave away a penalty two minutes later as Matt Sargeant brought down Ryan Blott who slotted the ball into the net to seal three points for Scarborough.

DK SHOW PROMISE BUT STILL NO WIN

Preston Grasshoppers 35 Dudley Kingswinford 12

Rugby

DUDLEY Kingswinford were welcomed to Preston for what was both teams 12th game of the season.

Preston Grasshoppers are fifth in the league having won seven and lost four of their previous games this season. Last season Dudley Kingswinford narrowly lost at home to the Hoppers 13-18 and were beaten 36-7 in the away fixture.

With less than 10 minutes gone the Hoppers broke the Dudley Kingswinford defensive line from five metres out and Andrew Irving scored the Hoppers first try, which was converted by Lewis Allen.

This was followed shortly afterwards by a Hoppers knock-on, on the Hoppers 10 metre line, the referee also spotted other illegal play from the Hoppers and converted his decision to a penalty, which Dudley Kingswinford elected to kick for goal.

Penalty

Kieran Pinches successfully claimed three points and he did the same again a few minutes later then DK added a third load of penalty points.

Dudley Kingswinford were starting to play with a confidence, unfortunately this was dented by the Hoppers on 35 minutes with their second try from Lewis Allen.

DK then earned three more points from another Pinches penalty kick.

The hoppers immediately set siege to the DK defensive line in the second half, but without success.

DK were unlucky when Ashley Oyekan's touch couldn't be varified by the officials. After what was a promising period for DK to this point they conceded a try.

The Hoppers pushed over the DK line for their No.6 William Lees to ground the ball. The score was then successfully converted by Lewis Allen.

With 38 minutes gone the Hoppers scored another try through Philip Baines. The conversion was successful.

Immediately after the Hoppers try Dudley Kingswinford replaced Matt Humphreys with Josh Morrissey.

The final play of the game resulted in the Hoppers scoring again.

The try was placed ib the right hand side and resulted from a series of missed tackles, but included a chip through by Karl Fitzpatrick, with Philip Baines the try scorer. Lewis Allen successfully converted to give the final score. DK let the game slip in the final quarter after much earlier promise.

However there was much promise shown, not least of which was the starting debut of Ben Brown, in whom the First XV might just have found a long-term replacement for Simon Fletcher.

Dudley Kingswinford flanker Matt Squires finds himself in the thick of the action against the Grasshoppers

Stearman issues a battlecry

EX-PREMIER League defender Richard Stearman claims it is 'criminal' Wolves are languishing in League One as he launched a promotion battlecry.

Wolves had to settle for a point in Saturday's 0-0 draw against Brentford and they slipped to second spot after Leyton Orient's 3-1 win at Swindon.

Stearman is one of 10 Wolves players who have played for the club in the Premier League, the Championship and League One, along with Carl Ikeme, Matt Doherty, Kevin Foley, George Elokobi, Dave Edwards, David Davis, Anthony Forde, Jamie O'Hara and Kevin Doyle.

And the in-form 26-year-old insists the players who are responsible for the double relegation must restore the club to where it belongs.

"It's criminal really that we're in the situation we're in, but that's the reality," said Stearman.

"It was us that got us there and we've got to bring back the good times and get back where we belong.

"We were fully confident we could achieve it (promotion) and we're proving it by amassing the points we've got."

Own goal gives Glassboys glory

Bideford AFC 0
Stourbridge 1

Gary Hackett's men ended Bideford's unbeaten start to their Calor League Premier Division campaign with a 64th minute own goal from Ben Gerring proving to be the only goal of a tight contest in North Devon.

This was a positive response by the Glassboys in the wake of two tough and tiring encounters.

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